Malacañang rejects ransom for 4 kidnapped teachers

Story on PAGE A3

118 MILF members surrender in Lanao

A LEADER of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and 117 of his followers surrendered in Lanao del Sur, the military said yesterday.

MILF commander Amer Pangandaman "voluntarily" gave himself up and his men, along with 98 assorted firearms and explosives, to the Army's 29th In-

118 MILF/A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

200 more 'illegals' arriving in Tawi-Tawi

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development is now better prepared to attend to the needs of some 200 illegal Filipino migrants expelled from Malaysia who are expected

200 MORE/A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, September 23, 2002 ★ 82 pages / 8 sections / vol. 17 / no. 287 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Palace smells plot in road scam exposé

ENTER THE DRAGON
Residents of Tai Hang village in Hong Kong celebrate the mid-autumn Moon Festival on Saturday with a dragon dance where the mythical monster adorned with thousands of incense sticks is paraded through the streets. *(See related story on Page A6.)* AFP

Insider says GMA is target

By Carlito Pablo and Martin P. Marfil

ALLEGATIONS that an eight-lane asphalt road named after the late father of President Macapagal-Arroyo was overpriced by P600 million are part of destabilization efforts against the administration, according to Malacañang insiders.

"The target is GMA (President Macapagal)," a Palace source said yesterday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was "really concerned" about allegations of irregularities that attended the construction of the 5.1-km President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, a project of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) at the Manila Reclamation area designed to ease traffic along Roxas Boulevard. Bunye did not elaborate.

Rumors about a destabilization plot are also making the rounds in military camps, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Details about the plot were contained in a Sept. 21 resolution submitted by the AFP's sergeants major who condemned it.

A group calling itself "Kasundalohan" has sent a letter to the President, expressing the soldiers' disgust over delayed pay increases, politicking in the AFP, and the bias of the country's political leaders toward the Philippine National Police.

The letter was disowned by the sergeants major, who act as links between military officers and en-

PALACE/A18

RP presses court trial for Chinese

THE 122 detained Chinese fishermen at the center of a diplomatic row between the Philippines and China would likely face a court trial if their government continues to refuse a plea bargain, Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee said yesterday.

But China's foreign ministry moved to prevent the dispute from escalating, stressing that both countries remained on friendly terms and that any dispute could be settled through negotiations.

Teehankee said the Philippine government understood China's concern for its citizens but stressed that the Chinese government should realize that "the offenses involved are very serious."

"They have to enter a guilty plea so there is a judicial record, and this should serve as an example that if they do it again, there will be a stricter penalty," Teehankee said on television.

"The justice secretary understands that the Chinese government is very eager to see (the fishermen) released, but we have to make it clear to them that the sooner they enter their plea and

RP/A4

Subic eyed as Asean oil stockpile site

OSAKA, Japan—The Philippines has proposed that a former US military base at Subic Bay be used as a regional oil stockpiling site to guard against future oil price fluctuations, according to a Japanese trade official.

Toshikazu Masuyama, an official of the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, disclosed the Philippine proposal as ministers from the 10 Asean countries, Japan, South Korea and China held their first-ever talks on regional oil security on the sidelines of a global conference of the major producing and consuming nations.

East and Southeast Asian nations said Sunday that they would explore the idea of building up oil stockpiles to cushion against supply disruptions from the volatile Middle East.

SUBIC/A4

THE OTHER SIDE OF MARTIAL LAW

Act of oppression or instrument of freedom?

By Oly M. Anastacio
Contributor

(Editor's Note: The author is a self-employed, part-time property manager/farmer and MBA student of the Ateneo de Manila University. He is 28 years old.)

COMMENTARY

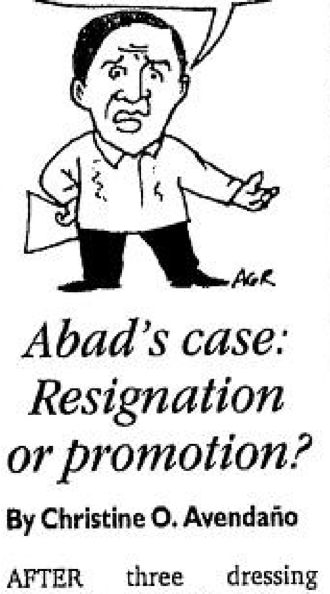
THE NATURE of martial law is to serve a political end, but the true nature of martial law is to free the Filipino people to assert their sovereignty. The true enemy was the Filipino nation's war with itself.

The issue was no longer who we had been as a people. Our early Filipino society, the 300-year Spanish subjugation, ongoing Southern Philippine conflict and a nearly 50-year American preceptorship was past history, but not history that we neither have ever nor are expected to set aside. Looking back, we revisit the struggles of a Philippine society that has endured time and privations in order to lay the groundwork for a Filipino state.

Could martial law, and I believe that it was and still is, have been an instrument of our freedom? It has been said that we are all free, but we must confront the questions of free to do what and free to become what. Otherwise all that we do and say is a license to waste.

As my generation struggles to learn from the morass of public debates about nationhood, I looked into observations made by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos in his book, "An Introduction to the Politics of Transition," about the continuous struggle for our nation's sovereignty. He wrote that "the legislative structures and processes established by virtue of the Tydings-McDuffie

ACT/A18


LAGI NA NGA NAPAPAGALITAN NA-PROMOTE PA?!
AGR

Abad's case: Resignation or promotion?

By Christine O. Avendaño

AFTER three dressing downs in public from President Macapagal-Arroyo, National Food Authority (NFA) Administrator Antonio Abad was being "kicked upstairs."

The irony was not lost on House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, who reacted yes-

ABAD'S/A19

Political, business deals brewing in Vienna cafés

By Amando Doronila

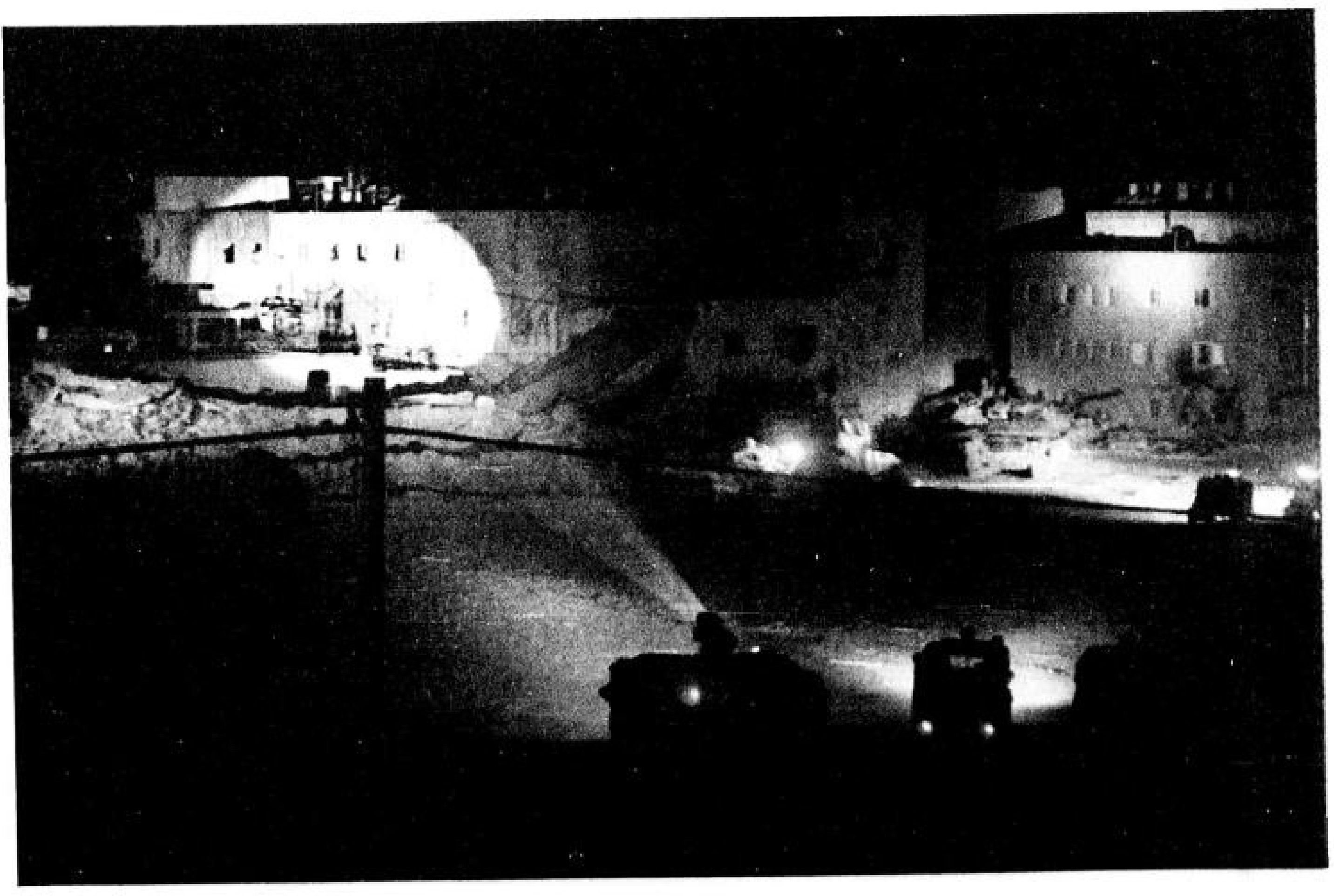
ANALYSIS

VIENNA—It is not for nothing that Café Landtmann is called by journalists the "secret government" of Austria. Located in the heart of Vienna's Kartnerring in the shadow of the State Opera, the 125-year-old café is not only known as "the most elegant café locally" in a city famous for its coffee houses, of which there are about 900.

The fame of Café Landtmann lies in the fact that it is the gathering place of politicians, business leaders, artists, journalists and members of aristocratic families. It is a place where business deals are cut and where political coalitions are sealed or broken.

At a late morning when my guide from the Federal Press Service of the foreign ministry took me to the café, he identified six politicians from different parties huddled around the café's elegant tables. Austria today faces a general election in November after the collapse early this month of the coalition between the conservative People's Party and its

POLITICAL/A18



ARAFAT UNDER SIEGE
Israeli troops and armored carriers wreak havoc throughout the night on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah, West Bank, as shown in this photo distributed by the IDF. *(See story on Page A11.)* GETTY IMAGES

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST. Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/23/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Security lapse eyed in ambush

By Martin P. Marfil and Joey A. Gabieta, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines said yesterday there may have been a breach in security in Leyte, which resulted in the death of four Scout Rangers in an ambush by suspected communist rebels last Friday.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor, who left for Leyte immediately to talk to the troops there in the wake of the killings, has ordered a review of security procedures during troop movements and the implementation of "corrective measures," AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said.

Four Scout Rangers were killed and two others wounded when they were ambushed in barangay Mabuhay, Mahaplag, Leyte, on Friday afternoon.

Servando said the area where the ambush occurred was "enemy-infested." He said the soldiers had been warned of this by Army intelligence but the group was "confident" that they would not be harmed.

Apparently, the New People's Army guerrillas had known about the troop movements, Servando said.

The four slain soldiers were from the 3rd Scout Ranger Co. which had earlier discovered and "neutralized" a five-kilometer network of tunnels and caves which ended near a military camp in Samar province.

In Tacloban City, military officers said they not only lost four comrades but also a month's payroll for 105 soldiers.

"We are all hungry now as a result of the ambush," said Col. Eusebio Ramos, commanding officer of the Army's 34th Infantry Battalion.

He said the armed men believed to be NPA guerrillas made away with almost P200,000 and some high-powered firearms.

The Rangers were returning to Mahaplag from Tacloban with their September payroll when they were attacked by about 50 armed men in Barangay Mabuhay, a mere 10 kilometers from their base in Barangay Pulahungon, Mahaplag, 90 km southwest of Tacloban City.

Killed in the ambush were Pfc. Orlando Ramos, 27, of Negros Occidental; TSgt. Jose Neil Serilo, 37, of Iloilo City; Pfc. Gomer Lyndon Nero, 29, of Matalom, Leyte, and MSgt. Alex Ajenga, 42, of Cotabato City. They all belonged to the 3rd Scout Rangers Command under Lt. Marlo Jomalesa.

One of their escorts, identified only as a Corporal Henopia, was wounded. Another wounded soldier, a Corporal Coro, was part of the responding team that went in pursuit of the attackers who were seen heading in the direction of Barangay Mahayahay, a village further inside the mountainous interior.

Armed encounters between government and rebel forces have escalated in recent weeks in the wake of the government's announcement that it was shifting its forces from fighting the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang to communist rebel areas.

On Sept. 20, a group of communist rebels burned a Globe "signal tower apparatus" inside a transmitter tower in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

That same day, a suspected rebel was killed and three others captured in a clash in Aborlan, Palawan.

The slain rebel was identified as Junie Taway, while those arrested were Danny Cano, Joel Aureno and Bobit Aureno.

Lawmen biggest block to drug drive–Loren

UNSCRUPULOUS Bureau of Customs agents may have fouled up an international drug bust by stealing the evidence and alerting the suspects, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Citing the incident, Senate majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste said pervasive corruption in law enforcement agencies remains the single biggest threat to the government's anti-drug campaign.

"The drive against the scourge of illegal drugs is being defeated from within—by corrupt agents of the law aiding and abetting drug syndicates," Legarda said in a statement.

The NBI launched an entrapment operation in November last year with South Korean police who had intercepted a shipment of 91 kilos of shabu worth P182 million in Seoul. The shipment, declared as vermicelli, was headed for Manila from China.

NBI agents pounced on the claimants in Manila. But when they searched the container van, the shabu was not there.

The NBI said the van had been parked at the Customs container yard for four days before it was claimed. *Rocky Nazareno*

Ople has plan vs abusive envoys

WILL the days of the arrogant and abusive Filipino diplomat soon be over?

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople has announced a plan to rate Filipino diplomats, particularly those in the Middle East, by the way they treat and respond to the needs of overseas Filipino workers in their respective posts.

Ople said he intends to tap retired ambassadors to review the highly competitive foreign service to develop a better reward system, particularly for diplomats who render invaluable service to OFWs.

Ople's statement was read by DFA Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin at memorial rites for the late Ambassador Abraham Rasul over the weekend.

"Ambassador Rasul looked after thousands of Filipinos who had sought refuge in the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh after fleeing war-torn Kuwait," Ople said in the statement.

"(His death) presents an occasion for a closer scrutiny of the DFA system . . . to make room for kindness and civility in a highly competitive career system," Ople said. *Norman Bordadora*

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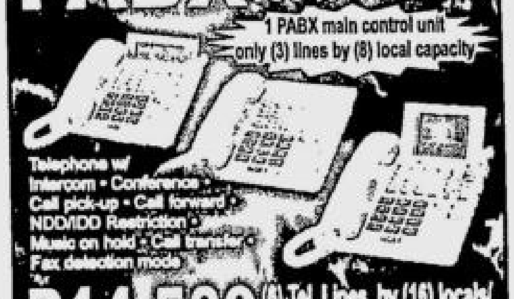

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No ransom for MSU tutors—GMA

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday rejected ransom demands by the armed gang that kidnapped four women teachers of the Mindanao State University (MSU) on Sept. 13, ordering instead the military to step up efforts to rescue the hostages.

"The President has directed the armed forces to exert extra effort in rescuing the victims," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a teleconference.

GMA-7 news last week played a video of the four hostages tearfully pleading with President Macapagal-Arroyo to help them.

The gang that abducted the teachers from a minibus in Lanao del Sur had reportedly demanded a P2-million ransom and the ouster of MSU president Camar Umpar for their freedom.

Bunye said, "Their demands, like the ouster of the MSU president, are not negotiable."

GMA-7 reported that the kidnappers were members of the Pentagon gang, whose leader Faizal Marohombsar was killed recently by government agents in Cavite.

Military commanders in Lanao del Sur, however, believe the kidnappers are former MSU security guards.

Bunye added: "Certainly, the President is concerned about their safety and her instruction is for the AFP to exert all efforts to have them rescued."

Apart from the teachers, three Indonesian seamen and four Filipino Christians continue to be held hostage by groups linked to the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group on Jolo island.

Ms Macapagal last week conceded the latest rash of abductions was a setback to her government's campaign to crush all kidnap gangs within one year. *With an AFP report*

Gloria to visit Hawaii

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will visit Hawaii next month on her way to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders summit in Mexico.

The President is scheduled to arrive in Honolulu on Oct. 24 and stay overnight, said Arlene Gonzales-Macaisa, Philippine vice consul in Honolulu.

Ms Macapagal is scheduled to meet with US Pacific Command officials, tour the new Filipino Community Center and visit the East-West Center. She will also be honored at a reception and dinner at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Macaisa said.

Hawaii has a strong Filipino-American presence. According to 2000 census figures, Hawaii's 170,635 Filipinos make up about 14 percent of the state's population. Gov. Ben Cayetano is the nation's first governor of Filipino ancestry.

Ms Macapagal last visited Hawaii in 1998 when she was vice president. This will be her first trip to the islands as president. *AP*

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Subic eyed as oil stockpile site

From page A1

Japan and South Korea are the only oil importers in the region that now hold onto surplus supplies for use in an emergency, while China and Thailand have plans for their own stockpiles modeled on those kept by rich consuming nations such as the United States, officials here said.

But with oil prices bumping up against $30 per barrel and fears of a US attack on Iraq stirring worries about supply problems, other countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations think they, too, should build up stocks to achieve greater energy security.

Masuyama, director of energy policy for Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, said the plan to put up a regional oil stockpiling facility was still in its infancy. "At least they have started talking about stockpiles. But nothing is definite yet," he said after chairing the "Asean plus Three" meeting.

The Philippines proposed that a former US military base at Subic Bay, which has large fuel storage facilities, could be used for stockpiling oil. Thailand said its geographic position between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea would be good for building a strategically placed pipeline.

India's energy minister said that the government in New Delhi was thinking of establishing an emergency stockpile, although the idea is still in the preliminary stage.

"We recognize the need for such security," Ram Naik told a news conference.

The discussions among the East Asian nations also were preliminary and will be followed up by more talks next year, Masuyama told reporters.

"They were not discussing concrete details about how and when and what kind of crude oil should be stockpiled," Masuyama said.

Asean nations have not gotten to the point of deciding whether they would build one or more regional stockpiles or if each nation should have its own, he said. Japan is urging its developing neighbors to build the stockpiles.

Masuyama urged Asian nations to learn from Japan. His country used to suffer from chronic energy shortage, prompting Tokyo to build a huge oil stockpile. Japan now has enough oil to last 35 years. South Korea also has a large oil stockpile. *Reports from AP and AFP*

RP presses ...

From page A1

pay fines, the sooner the fishermen will be released from custody," he said.

Asked what would happen if Beijing continued to refuse a plea bargain, Teehankee said there would be no other choice but to have a court trial.

The Chinese fishermen were arrested in batches, many of them at the Tubbataha Marine Park in the Sulu Sea, more than six months ago. Their time in detention in Puerto Princesa City would be considered part of their sentence if they pleaded guilty.

A separate group of 38 Chinese fishermen were arrested by the Philippine Navy off El Nido on Sept. 12 and charged with poaching last week.

A deal announced during the visit of Chinese Premier Li Peng earlier this month to free the fishermen in exchange for a guilty plea and payment of hefty fines fell through last week, triggering a diplomatic spat.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez demanded on Friday the immediate expulsion of Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungqui for angrily reneging on the agreement.

Perez said Wang should be declared "persona non grata" to serve as an example that the Philippines could not be bullied by its neighbors. He said Wang had shouted at him and pounded on his table when they met to discuss the release of the fishermen.

A Chinese Embassy statement circulated at the weekend said Perez's account of his meeting with Wang was one-sided and inaccurate, even as it expressed a wish the incident would not adversely affect "friendly, cooperative relations" between the two countries.

Beijing probe

In another statement issued yesterday, China's foreign ministry said it was "checking relevant circumstances" surrounding the 122 detained fishermen.

"China and the Philippines are friendly neighboring countries. If there are differences or problems that happen between the two countries, we think they can be properly settled through friendly negotiations," the statement said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang was letting the Department of Foreign Affairs "handle the request" of Perez.

"Of course, we are always concerned that we preserve the good relationship between our two countries," Bunye said in a teleconference. "We acknowledge our relationship (with China) has been beneficial so far," he said.

But Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, said relations between the Philippines and China were expected to turn sour if Wang remained in the country.

In a statement, Lozada asked the DFA to make official representations with China so that Wang could be replaced.

"Ambassador Wang is now a major source of irritant. His stay here would not do Philippine-China relations any good," Lozada said. *Reports from AFP, Carlito Pablo and Christine Avendaño*

200 more ...

From page A1

are expected to arrive in Tawi-Tawi this week, according to social work officials.

"Compared before, we are more prepared now. We are getting support from the private sector," said Bai Sambai Suwaib, administrative officer of the DSWD in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

ARMM Social Welfare Secretary Bainon Karon has directed field officers in Tawi-Tawi and Sulu to take care of the coming deportees.

"This is Social Welfare Secretary (Corazon) Dinky Soliman's directive. We won't fail her," Karon said.

Around 780 Filipinos arrived in Bongao on Saturday aboard the BRP Bacolod City and BRP San Juan of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Those in the latest batch were in good health and appeared to have been treated well by prison guards in Malaysia compared to the earlier arrivals.

More than 20,000 Filipino migrants from Malaysia were uprooted after Kuala Lumpur last month brought in tough new punishments, including whipping, for overstayers. Most of them were illegal entrants while others were workers with expired visas.

In Italy, the Philippine labor office has warned undocumented Filipino workers to be "quiet" until their papers are processed so as not to attract the attention of authorities.

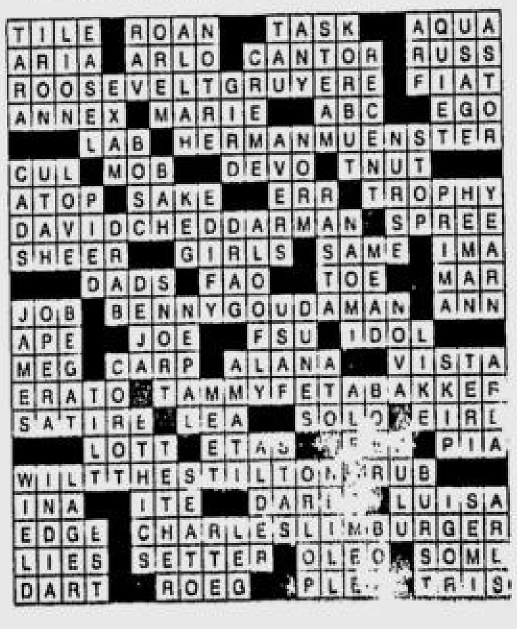
Milan-based labor attaché Ellen Calingasan said the Philippine Embassy was giving out leaflets to Filipinos detailing how they and their employers could legalize their stay.

Deadline for regularization of all foreign workers in factories and other firms is Oct. 9, while the deadline for all foreign domestic helpers without work permits is Nov. 9.

Calingasan said the labor office was expecting more Filipinos to come out and register during this year's amnesty program because there was no quota for any nationalities. Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas earlier said only some 20,000 of the 150,000 Filipinos in Italy were documented.

Foreigners without work permits after the regularization period face arrest and detention at holding centers of up to 30 days until they are deported. *With a reports from and Blanche S. Rivera in Manila*

Answer to Sunday CrosswordPuzzle



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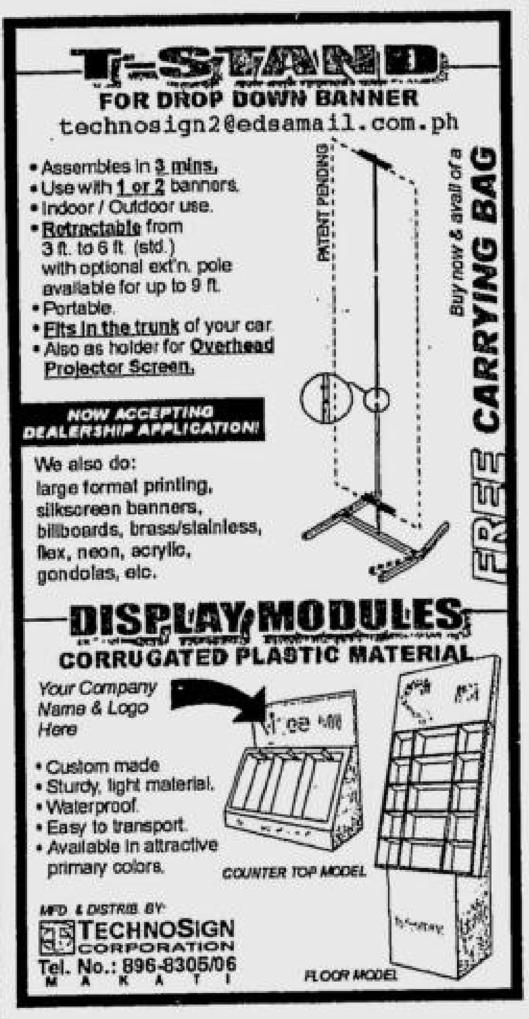

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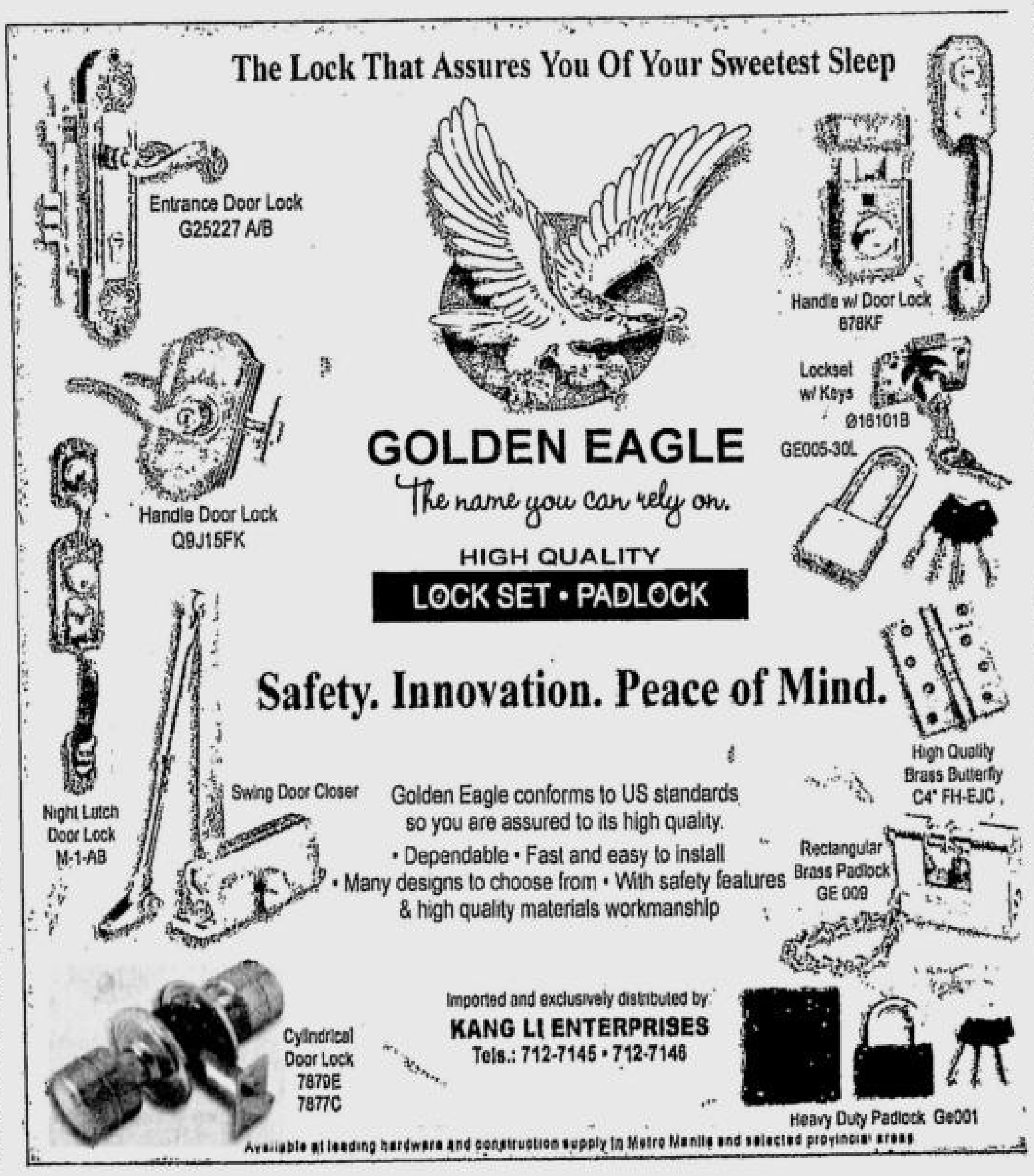

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'Dr. Melendres, meet Erap'

HE may be the uncle of one of deposed President Joseph Estrada's mistresses, but suspended Lung Center of the Philippines executive director Dr. Fernando Melendres has proven that he's no Erap guy.

Melendres, uncle of Joy Melendres, by whom the ousted President has a child, revealed yesterday said that it was only last Tuesday that he met Estrada for the first time.

"I never met Estrada before," said Melendres, who had speculated that one of the reasons he was suspended by Malacañang was his supposed link to the ex-president.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo on Sept. 9 ordered the 90-day suspension of Melendres pending the investigation of graft charges filed against him by members of the LCP medical staff. Melendres has denied the charges.

Melendres said he tagged along with his cousin Cornelio, Joy's father, when the latter went to visit Estrada at the VMMC on Tuesday.

"The former president even asked if I was the Melendres reported in media who was suspended by Malacañang," Melendres said. "He could not even remember signing my appointment papers." *Carlito Pablo*

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PDI 09/02

Chinese, Igorots share lunar lore during festival

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The moon is both guide and mythic symbol to the Chinese and the Igorots who base their traditional calendars on the lunar cycle, the only difference being that the Chinese observe midautumn with a Moon Festival, which this year fell on Sept. 21.

Each of the Chinese-Filipino associations in this city celebrates the festival with a special dinner, marked by the consumption of moon cakes in various shapes and sizes.

They also share lunar myths and legends as they recall the festival's historic significance for the Chinese.

Dr. Charles Cheng of the Baguio Filipino Cantonese Association has written that the first salvo in the attempt to topple a tyrant in ancient China was made by way of written messages inserted into moon cakes during one such festival.

To promote cross-cultural understanding, the Filipino Cantonese Association here invited Dr. Morr Pungayan, an Ibaloi linguist and historian, to talk about "Cross Cultural Beliefs and Practices Related to the Moon," as members and guests of the Chinese-Filipino community here gathered for the moon-gazing affair last Saturday.

Chinese-Filipino community leader Ricabel Rosario was also asked to relate some legends about the moon.

Igorots look to the moon as a guide in their farming and folk rituals. Ancient Igorots could tell and approximate time cycles through the phases of the moon, changes in the humidity and temperature through the various seasons and the arrival of migratory birds.

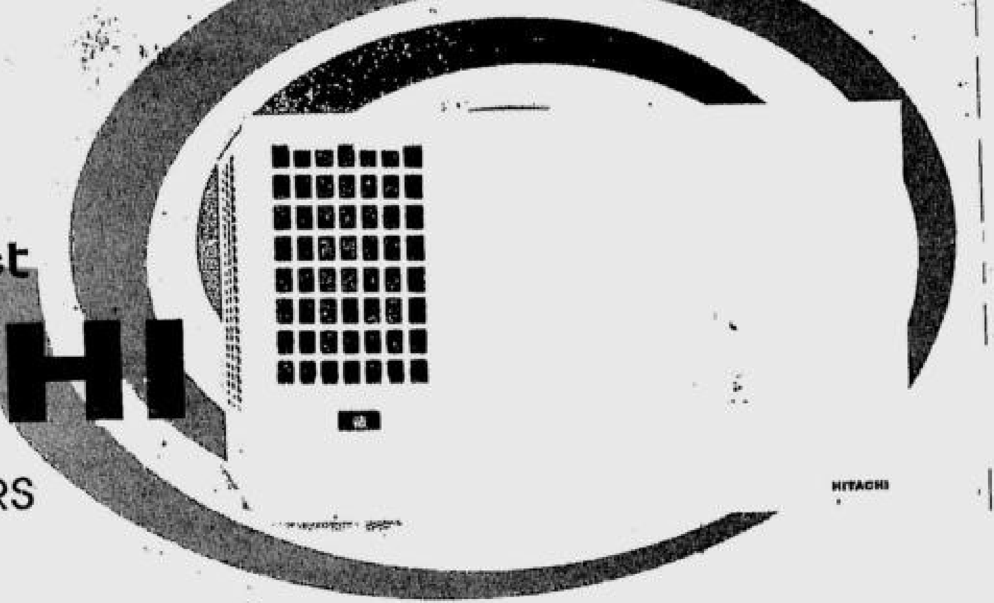
The Kankana-ey and Bago folk of Benguet, for example, note four major phases of the moon—*beska* (first quarter), *teke* (full moon), *bakas* (last quarter), and *lened* (new moon).

Esay lesing, the period between a major lunar phase and the next phase, approximates a week in the Gregorian calendar.

Esay beska, which is based on the changing of the four-phase lunar cycle, is equivalent to a month.

Kankana-ey and Bago folk schedule their farming activities and rituals based on these cycles.

The highlanders, for example, believe that it is more auspicious to plant sweet potato and bean seeds between the first quarter and the full moon, but not after the full moon when it gives way to a new moon.



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An Appeal to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

September 5, 2002

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang, Manila

Dear Madame President:

We write to your august office to expose rampant irregularities and anomalies perpetrated by various officers and personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region V which have not only deprived us of our own livelihood as legitimate public works contractors, but worse, have also systematically raided the coffers of the government to the extreme prejudice of our people, particularly, the Bicolanos.

Madame President, our organizations represent all public works contractors in the province of Albay. As businessmen engaged in construction, we are supposed to suffer in silence rather than fight the very government agency which we usually deal with, the DPWH. But then, said government agency and its own livelihood and survival are already at stake. Thus, we have no choice but to do our civic duty to expose these flagrant anomalies and corruption not only for own our survival, but also for the sake of our fellow Bicolanos.

We are referring, Madame President, to different DPWH officials and personnel referred to as "inside" contractors who either have their own construction companies managed by dummies or those who use the Business Licenses of other contractors in cornering and implementing government construction projects. This is not only a clear case of conflict of interest. Rather, these are the very engineers/personnel who designed and/or made the programs of works and the corresponding estimates. These are the very officials/engineers/personnel who, using their company or the name/ Business License of another contractor, implemented the project which they themselves programmed and estimated using government equipments and manpower. These are also the very same officials/engineers/personnel who are supposedly tasked to inspect the works and approved their corresponding payments. Indeed, we are not only referring to the rigging of the bidding of infrastructure projects but also to a wholesale fraud in the implementation of government projects in our region. Sad to say, said anomalous practices are already adversely affecting your good name under which such projects are being implemented.

In view of the foregoing considerations, we humbly implore you to intervene and direct an investigation in this wholesale and rampant fraud perpetrated by DPWH officials and personnel in the implementation of government projects in the Bicol region. We are more than willing to testify against these DPWH officials who have wantonly enriched themselves using the powers and prerogatives of their respective offices at the expense of your administration. As it is, we have nothing more to lose as these unscrupulous DPWH officials and personnel already usurped whatever small business opportunities we had.

As you are probably aware, we businessmen would never file a complaint, especially with the person with whom we deal business. It is just like imposing our own death sentence as businessmen or more particularly as a government contractors.

Yet, if nobody will complain, who will? Shall we continuously allow the wanton plunder of government coffers, close our eyes and ears as if we have not seen or heard anything so long as we have our own business? As law-abiding citizens and admirers of your administration, we loath seeing the highest official of the land breaking her back to provide the best for our countrymen while minor factotums are doing nothing but enriching themselves in office at the expense of our people.

We are therefore hoping for your immediate and favorable action on our humble request in the interest of good governance and a strong republic.

Thank you and more power.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO V. NIDEA
President
Mayon Builders Association

RODOLFO M. MADRID
President
Albay Professional Contractors Association (APCA)

JOSE [illegible]
President
Albay Contractors Association

ADVT

THE PHILIPPINE media guests of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Information, with Saleh Moh'd al-Ghamdi, Saudi ambassador to the Philippines (fourth from left): Jose Galang Jr., Manila Times editor-in-chief; Lourdes Fernandez, Today editor-in-chief; Max Soliven, Philippine Star publisher and chairman of the board; Carmen Pedroza, Philippine Star columnist; Danny Bernardo, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. senior vice president for news and current affairs, and Isagani Yambot, Philippine Daily Inquirer publisher.

OFWs say they can deliver 'smart' vote

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

RIYADH-An international coalition of Filipino overseas workers Tuesday night urged Congress to pass the absentee voting bill before the end of this year.

In an interview with a visiting Philippine media delegation, leaders of the International Coalition for Overseas Filipinos' Voting Rights said the estimated 7.4 million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) deployed all over the world constitute an intelligent vote that could help elect better officials.

Alex Veloso Bello of ABB Saudi Arabia, one of the coalition's spokespersons, said: "We want to be able to elect the right people. The root cause of what's happening to our country today is bad governance, bad leaders. You have good leaders and everything else will follow."

Rashid Fabricante, operations engineer of the Saudi Telephone Co., said, "*Sawa na kami sa nangyayari sa Pilipinas* (We're sick and tired of what's happening in the Philippines)."

He said the coalition—which includes 276 organizations in Saudi Arabia alone and about 500 in the entire Middle East—had in place a Namfrel-type watchdog system that would prevent election fraud.

Fabricante said the majority of OFWs in the Middle East, who belong to the D and E economic classes, would not vote for the likes of deposed President Joseph Estrada because they have been exposed to different ways of life and kinds of government.

Even the domestic helpers can be expected to vote intelligently because many of them are college graduates, he said.

They would like to have a good government, he stressed, for the sake of the present generation, as well as future generations of Filipinos.

Told that the government might not be able to fund an absentee voting system because of its present financial problems, Rashid argued that OFWs had paid about $130 billion in taxes in the past 30 years.

"Where did all that money go?" Rashid asked. Surely, the government could allocate even a small part of the huge amount for the necessary mechanisms, he said.

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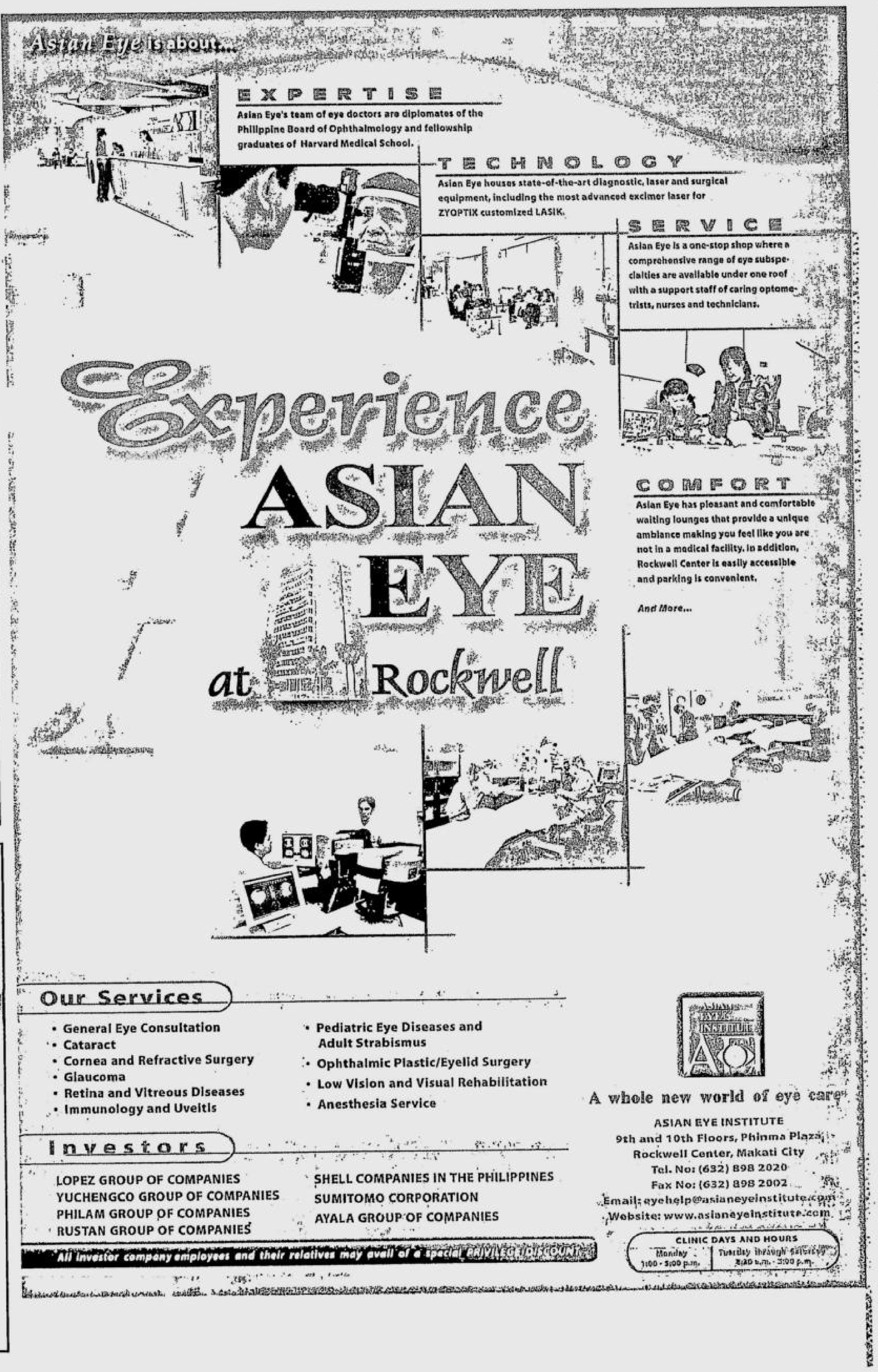

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Unexplainable

EDITORIAL

THE SENATE blue ribbon committee hearings on the controversial Naia Terminal 3 project have wound down, but many crucial questions in the controversy remain unanswered. It is doubtful whether the "interim" committee report, which blue ribbon chair Sen. Joker Arroyo said he will write and then circulate among panel members before the end of the month, will offer a scandal-weary public the kind of closure it needs.

Some of those questions are directed at Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco, the presidential adviser for strategic projects. Last year, the President ordered Climaco to review the build-operate-transfer contract (including the original concession, the amended and revised concession agreement and the three supplements) awarded to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Since then she has reportedly discovered at least 28 "onerous" provisions in the contract and also negotiated with the company's German partners for a possible buyout. But Piatco officials and congressmen allied with the firm (at least one of whom is actively soliciting resumés from people applying for a job at the new terminal) have charged her with various sins of omission and commission. Their concerns can be reduced to simple terms: Is Climaco laboring under a conflict of interest?

Piatco lawyers say that, as a high-ranking official of Equitable bank, Climaco was involved in the Naia 3 project right from the start. Critics also say they suspect her of forcing the buyout issue in order to allow other interested parties, such as taipan Lucio Tan, to take over the project in the future. ("Over my dead body," she told the INQUIRER editors two weeks ago.) Last week, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. joined the Piatco fray by asking the blue ribbon panel he used to head not to rush to judgment, because there seemed to be too many "interlocking interests" identified with Climaco, the former chair of accounting giant SGV.

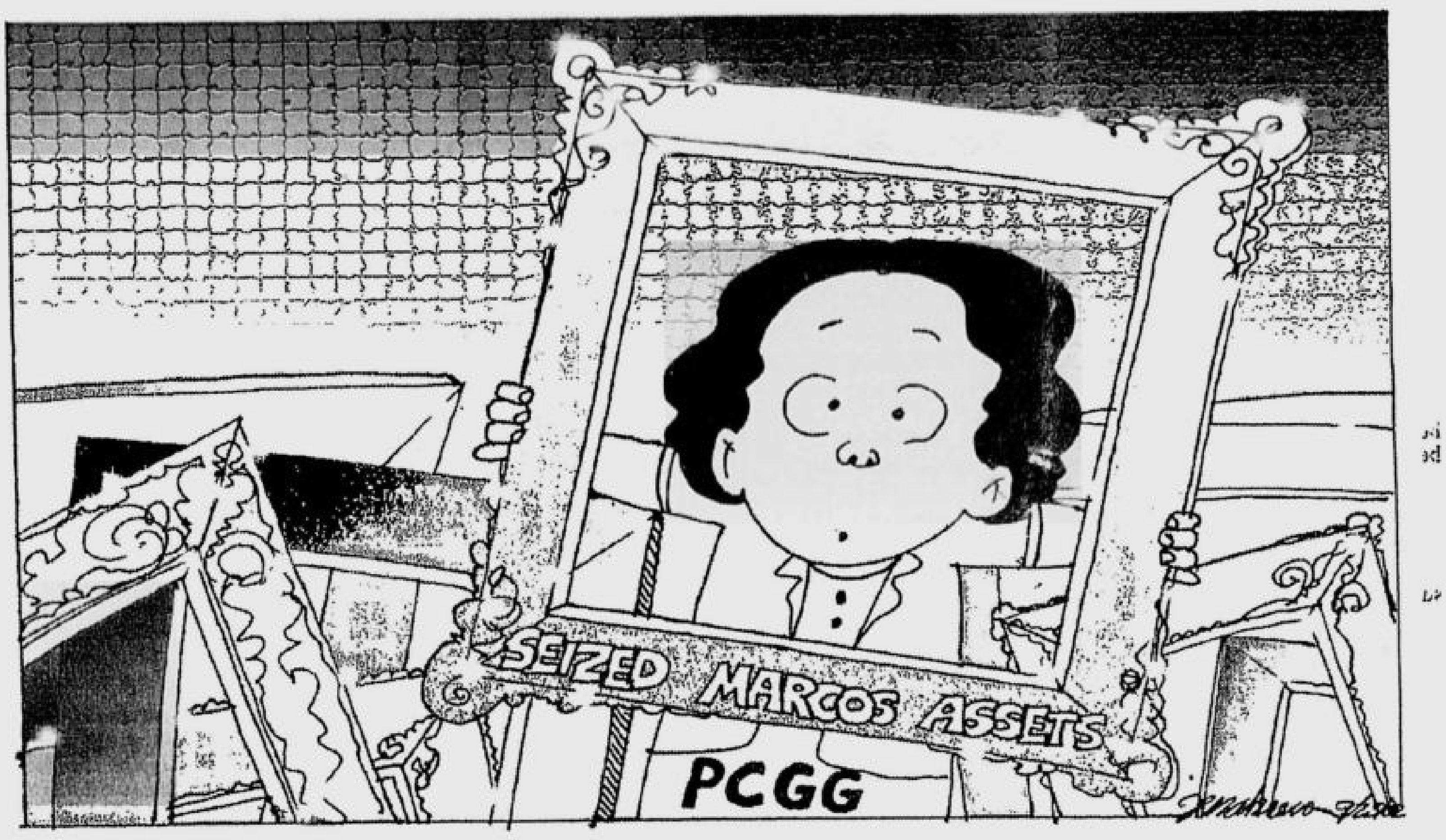
There also seems to be a difference in approach between Climaco's takeover strategy and that of the government's lawyers, from Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on down, who prefer renegotiation. All these issues, however, can be easily remedied: Climaco, taking a cue from Perez, can inhibit herself from further participation in the government's review of the Piatco contract. She can say, in good conscience, that she has done what the President directed her to do, and now will leave it up to other officials in the government to continue what she started.

The main questions in the controversy, however, are directed at Piatco, and they are not as easy to resolve.

Why was there a falling out between the local and German partners? Piatco officials say it was because, as early as the first week of July, Climaco had already decided to take over the project and the Germans were intimidated into agreeing. This explanation does not convince anyone. Fraport AG is a publicly listed company controlled by the German state of Hesse. Its president is the state's prime minister, and the Naia 3 project is its flagship project in Asia, known to stock market players in Frankfurt and consuming some $375 million of its investment money. A powerful multinational with a major stake in the project succumbing to intimidation? It does not stand to reason; it does not make business sense. The simplest explanation is still the best: the decision of Fraport AG officials to run for help to the government was based on lack of confidence in its local partners. For this the remedy is clear but, like an impossibly priced drug, may be out of reach: Piatco must learn to be more candid.

But another issue is even more inexplicable: Where is Alfonso Liongson, the former drug firm executive turned million-dollar PR man? Piatco officials say: They don't know. When will he come back? They don't know. Does this stand to reason? Does this make business sense, for a company to pay a consultant $2.1 million net of taxes and then not to know his whereabouts, or even how to get in touch with him?

Again, the remedy is clear: Piatco should present Liongson to a curious public. Otherwise, everything else company officials say will be hard to explain, and impossible to believe.



The Don Eugenio Lopez Sr. letters to Marcos

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ON THE OCCASION of the anniversary of the declaration of martial law, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, defense minister during the Marcos regime and commonly known as the "martial law administrator," exploded a bombshell against the Lopez family, owners of Meralco whose "onerous" contracts and high power rates Enrile has been exposing.

"We have been demonized for many years for martial law," said Enrile, "it is time that the truth comes out."

"The common impression is that Meralco was forcibly taken from the Lopezes by the Marcos government and so it was returned to them in 1986 by the Aquino administration. That is false," said Enrile. "Meralco was sold by the Lopezes to the government. In fact, the Lopez patriarch, Eugenio Lopez Sr., begged President Marcos for help as Meralco could no longer pay its debts. It had already defaulted on loans from a number of American and Philippine banks." He showed a list of these banks and their respective loans to Meralco. (Ironically, that unfortunate development is now happening again to the present Lopez business empire now run by the patriarch's surviving son and his grandchildren. The corporations in the empire have defaulted on their loans.)

The government paid for those old Meralco debts, Enrile told the media at the Kapihan sa Sulo last Saturday.

In short, because of ignorance perhaps, what the Lopezes sold was returned to them by the Cory administration for free, *gratis*.

This is not just idle talk. Enrile brandished a thick sheaf of documents, including letters personally written by Don Eugenio to President Marcos asking for his help to bail out Meralco. He offered to turn these documents to the Senate blue ribbon committee or the Senate committee on energy if they would investigate the Meralco contracts, even if the blue ribbon committee is chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo who was the executive secretary during the Cory administration, and the energy committee is chaired by Sen. Renato Cayetano, an ABS-CBN talent. Enrile gave copies of three of Don Eugenio's letters to reporters.

The Don Eugenio letters are the smoking guns which prove that the Lopezes wanted to unload Meralco because they couldn't pay the debts anymore. Far from the government taking Meralco forcibly, it was Don Eugenio who forced the Marcos administration to take it when the latter replied that "it was not interested."

But let Don Eugenio's letters speak for themselves, pertinent excerpts of which are reproduced here.

The first letter was written on Feb. 19, 1973:

"...Now that the government under your leadership is committed to this program (that ownership of industries vital to the economy should be dispersed as widely as possible). I believe the time is ripe to find ways and means of placing the ownership of Meralco in the hands of the consumers and the general public.

"For this reason Nanding (that's Vice President Fernando Lopez, Don Eugenio's brother) and I would like to offer the sale of our holdings to a cooperative composed of Meralco employees, customers and the general public that could be organized with the assistance of the government.

"Of course, since the Lopez family owns only 33 percent of Meralco Securities Corp., a transfer of the ownership of Meralco to a cooperative would require the support of our other stockholders. I feel, however, that if some orderly, fair and equitable manner could be arranged for the transfer of the holdings of Meralco Securities Corp., the majority would agree to this move, especially if they are made to realize that this will and in the end redound to the benefit of Meralco, the consumers and the country as a whole."

On March 30, 1973, Don Eugenio wrote another letter to President Marcos:

"In connection with my letter to you of Feb. 19, which, I understand, you received only last week, I am writing you again to ask for your help in solving the difficulties besetting the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) as well as its holding company, the Meralco Securities Corp. (MSC).

"You may recall that last February, Meralco offered to sell all its existing generating facilities to the government/NPC. Soon thereafter, however, Meralco was advised by Secretary Melchor that the government was not interested at the time in acquiring them. It was therefore felt that the proposal might be more acceptable if MSC were to divest itself of this ownership or control of Meralco. It was for this reason that, with my approval, Mr. Alfredo Montelibano, chairman of the MSC board, proposed to you that all of Meralco shares could be exchanged for government bonds.

"Meanwhile, some time in February, some of the technical people in Meralco and MSC developed another plan involving the trusteeship concept. When I learned of this plan, I thought that it merited your immediate attention and since Gov. Benjamin Romualdez was in the United States on his way back to Manila, I asked Mr. Antonio Ayala, a vice president of Meralco, to explain it to him for your information.

"Both plans have one thing in common, i.e. it enables our group to divest itself of its interests in Meralco..."

Excerpts from the third letter will be reproduced here tomorrow.

Senator Enrile will amplify on his exposés at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) forum this morning.

Life and death

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOME years ago, said our guide to the Museum of Contemporary History at Bonn, he and his family were in Israel. While eating at a restaurant, one of the waiters, an elderly man, approached them and asked them if they were Germans. The waiter said he had heard their conversation and presumed they were so. They answered yes, and our guide asked the waiter in turn if he was Hungarian, as indicated by his accent. The waiter said yes. He was a Hungarian who had survived one of Hitler's concentration camps, the one near Poland. He rolled up his sleeve and showed the number tattooed on his arm.

What can you say when confronted by something like that?—our guide mused. He himself, he said, had not thought about it for a long while. Certainly, he felt no guilt. His own family had suffered in the war, and his wife's grandparents, who were Poles, had been victims of Hitler's persecution. His wife's grandfather, who was going on in years at the time, died in a long march, while her grandmother, who was 10 years younger, managed to live through hunger by the skin of her teeth.

After a while, however, he said, an unbidden and completely bothersome thought gnawed in his brain. Before that, he had not believed in collective guilt, he had believed only in individual guilt. You personally did harm to another human being, you ought to feel guilty. But try as he did, he could not dispel the thought also that the people who wreaked this atrocity on people like this Hungarian were those who spoke the same language as he, breathed the same air as he, and conceivably lived in the same neighborhood as he. Maybe it was not a reason for collective guilt, he said, but it was a reason for collective responsibility.

That was how he got to be a guide at the Museum of Contemporary History. This was not his regular job, he said, this was his volunteer work.

When our guide said this, we were at the beginning of our "Journey in time," as he put it in the museum. He apologized profusely for the fact that the history that was represented there was largely the history of Western Germany. At the time the museum was conceived, the possibility that East and West could be reunited did not loom in anyone's wildest imagination. The history began with Hitler and the concentration camps.

I had been to a concentration camp before almost 10 years ago, a real one and not a simulated version. I forget the name but it sounded like Sachsenhausen. That was one of the most incredible experiences I've ever had, and I retain the images from it very vividly to this day. Images of people who had been stripped to the bone, barely any flesh clinging to their bodies, their eyes just hollow sockets gaping from their skulls. Images of rigid and emaciated bodies piled up in trucks, like deadwood, being carted away. I would learn from that visit that Nazi doctors used to experiment on human tolerance for heat and cold in that camp, and used inmates for the purpose. Who died of course, being exposed to extremes of heat and cold while being observed for how long they could last.

The museum might not have been the real thing, but it was pretty close to it. The atmosphere of the concentration camps was there, in sight and sound. The sight being photographs and artifacts of the time, and the sound being Hitler's fiery oratory and the Nazi march music of the time. It was sufficiently eerie, and imparted a cautionary tale about the capacity of madness and folly to rule the earth. But that was just the start of the journey. The museum is a huge structure with several thousand exhibits, and provides a capsule history of Germany from the War onward. The next sections deal with postwar history, from Germany's efforts to rebuild itself under Konrad Adenauer amid the ruin and shame, its division into East and West as the victors divided the spoils, Willy Brandt's public apology to the victims of the Holocaust, Germany's role in superpower rivalry, particularly the US and USSR's fight to conquer space, the fall of the Wall and the situation since then. It runs the expanse from politics to culture, from cars and washing machines to satellites and experiments in nuclear fission, from socialism and social democracy to soccer and rock and roll.

Looking at the exhibits, I began to wonder very seriously if we cannot do something similar here. It doesn't have to be grand or big, it can be modest and small. But certainly it is within our range of capability. Our own memorabilia is there, spread out in various institutions and individual hands: photographs of the World War II and its aftermath, old records, phonographs and jukeboxes, the first television, radio sets and household items. (Quite incidentally, I saw an interesting collection of radio receivers that were used during the War in one of the houses near Malacañang last year.) The exhibit could run the gamut from the Death March to Edsa II, showing the political, economic and cultural history of the country in sounds and images. Its benefit for us should be incalculable, given our inability to remember anything that happened in the past. It's a real eye-opener, catching a panorama of a country's history, or a slice of it anyway, in capsule form in one place. As the Museum of Contemporary History in Bonn shows, the notion that life moves on, we do not need to dwell on the past, is a thoroughly mistaken one. The only way life can move on is by being pushed on by the past. The only way the future can be glimpsed is by never forgetting the pain and villainy that happened before.

The past is not just a matter of passing interest. It is a matter of life and death.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Comelec recall decision opens a can of worms

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I'M glad to note that Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has opined that the spanking-new Airport 3, now just finishing up, ought to open as scheduled on Nov. 26, especially since the Japanese contractor, Takenaka Corp., has debunked the claims of presidential adviser Gloria Tan-Climaco about so-called defects of the airport. Gordon has just come back from a long trip abroad selling the Philippines as part of "Visit the Philippines Year" in 2003. I'm all for this as we have a beautiful country to sell and tourism brings the dollars in. But first things first—let's do our homework.

Over the past few months I've been to three prime destinations in the country, and I must say that I'm shocked by some of the things I've seen and experienced.

* * *

For instance, the back roads in Boracay, the crown jewel, just one block from the fabled beach, are just awful; all the relaxing on the beach is undone by the unwelcome body massage on the back roads, especially since the only mode of transportation in the interiors are the tricycles. Then too, the highway leading to Palawan's famed Underground River, that lovely island's premier attraction, also subject the tourists to an hour or so of punishing massage. Up in Ilocos Norte, the Paoay Church, unique in its mixture of Mayan and Sri-Vishayan influences, is in such unbelievable state of decrepitness that windows are falling apart and the grass has crept over the sloping church walls outside.

* * *

The Comelec has set aside the petition of Puerto Princesa Mayor Dennis Socrates to nullify the candidacy of one of his two opponents in the recall election scheduled there tomorrow, ex-Mayor Edward Hagedorn, on the ground that the latter is no longer eligible to run. Socrates had earlier argued that while Hagedorn did not seek a fourth term last May 2001, running instead for governor (and losing) against then Vice Gov. Joel Reyes, his running in the recall election ought to be nullified because the Constitution limits a local official's eligibility for a given office to three consecutive terms. Socrates argued that the period being contested in this recall election is the unfinished portion of what is effectively the fourth immediate mayoralty term after Hagedorn's three terms.

* * *

Comelec, however, disregarded Socrates' petition, saying that the framers of the Constitution were not specific about the length of the mandated interruption of service after three terms. In other words, the hiatus need not be three years. Unfortunately this Comelec ruling opens a can of worms—it would cause many problems for the poll body and more instability for the country. What would now prevent a former local official who wants to cling to more power after three terms to pay off the barangay chairmen and SK members to institute recall proceedings against his successor, and then run in that recall election himself?

In ruling that a local official can only have three consecutive terms, the Constitution apparently had in mind not just physical rest for the three-termer but also allowing new blood in the political scene (never mind if it's oftentimes just relative). The Comelec ruling makes a mockery of this mandated break. It would be interesting to see it challenged before the Supreme Court.

* * *

The high court has ruled as illegal the P6.5-billion contract awarded by the Comelec to Photokina Marketing Inc. to computerize the voters' registration list, on the ground that it will cost more than the P1.2 billion appropriated by Congress. The voiding of the VRIS project gives enormous impetus to the impeachment case lodged in the House against Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, who was directly in charge of the Comelec's modernization program. While there are a number of violations cited in the complaint filed by a number of lawmakers, the VRIS project is undisputably the most audacious and mind-boggling.

* * *

In a letter to his former colleagues, former Rizal Rep. Emigdio Tanjuatco termed the Photokina issue a "palpable assault on the constitutional power of Congress over the purse strings" which defies its "past and present efforts to safeguard this prerogative." The former lawmaker recalled that soon after ex-President Estrada appointed Tancangco to the Comelec, she obligated the government to pay Photokina the contract price of P6.6 billion, which, as Tanjuatco put it, "was so extravagant that it has been likened to a cruise missile being employed to kill a fly." He asked his former colleagues to support the fiery commissioner's impeachment.

* * *

Ex-Representative Tanjuatco recalled that in the 10th Congress, he was among those who worked to pass RA 8189, the Voters Registration Act of 1996, which provided for a continuing system of voters' registration and P2 billion for its implementation. He argued that "when Congress, through its sole and exclusive power to appropriate, decrees P2 billion available for this activity, no one, with the possible exception of God, can obligate a bigger amount." But Tancangco, armed with no amendatory law that increased the allocation, went ahead and contracted for P6.6 billion worth of project (how true is the rumor that a presidential mistress pushed for the contract?).

* * *

The ex-lawmaker pointed out that Tancangco's act of single-handedly increasing the VRIS budget is a palpable violation of the Constitution and her "greatest offense to Congress." Arguing that the "preventive part is just as important as the exemplary aspect," Tanjuatco asserted that "To allow (the commissioner) one more day in office means another day for her to defy the constitutional precepts that we hold sacred," he stressed. Tancangco's term expires in the first quarter of 2004, some 18 months more.

I agree that Congress shouldn't wait for another day to impeach her.

Mystery of the Isamal bones

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

NOBODY reads ethnographies. Anthropologists kid themselves that even they do not. It is not true, of course. Well, here is a "mystery ethnography" a la Indiana Jones that may intrigue lay people.

The setting is Igacos, that lengthy acronym for "Island Garden City of Samal" just off the Davao City coast, made famous by Pearl Farm, beach resorts and hotel-casino, closed down or not. What tourists are unaware of is that Samal Island is home to an indigenous people known as the Isamal.

The American anthropologist Henry Otley Beyer, for want of a better term, coined the name "Isamal" in 1916 to distinguish them from the Samal of Sulu. Isamal speakers number only 0.12 percent in Region 11's 1995 demographics. Their origin is largely anonymous.

The Isamal themselves are in search of that identity. In the tiny Isamal fishing village of Tagbaobo in Punta Libod facing Davao Oriental, is a cave that used to be the burial chamber of their ancestors. Now, the bones are gone. Finding them is the earnest plea of the Isamal. No reward awaits readers of this column who may have information. All that the Isamal want is repatriation for which they do not lack international counterparts.

In September 1967, student anthropologists of the University of Mindanao in Davao City reportedly found four ancient coffins in Punta Libod. Among the artifacts was a child's catafalque in the shape of a sarimanok. Other coffins were highly brittle but yielded skeletal remains, mostly "highly eroded bones of normal-sized individuals."

The ascription "normal-sized" is important because among the finds was a "relatively big-sized" human jawbone. It alludes to an Isamal legend that their ancestors were said to be giants. These finds were reported in an article ("Relics of a Lost Tribe" by Florencio A. Ranido) in the July 14, 1968 issue of the Sunday Times Magazine and became the subject of an intense debate among anthropologists. The "giant" story was eventually challenged by UP anthropologist Dr. Jerome Bailen who wrote about it in the Sunday Times Magazine of Sept. 1, 1968.

The Isamal, however, have no recollection when the bones were lost. Apparently, the emptying of the caves could have begun a century earlier. The young UP anthropologist Dr. Maria Mangahas (daughter of Mahar, doctorate in social anthropology from Cambridge University), who did fieldwork among the Isamal in 1996-1997, cites historical literature that mention Samal Island. One is Joseph Montano's 1886 "Voyages aux Philippines et en Malaisie" where he mentions taking skeletons from a cave in Mindanao. The other is the account of Alex Schadenberg of 1885, "Die Bewohner von Sud-Mindanao und der Insel Samal." A German, Schadenberg collected artifacts and preserved animals in Manila during Rizal's time for transshipment to German scientific museums. Schadenberg's 1885 ethnography recalls he had photographed and collected bones from cave burial sites. Were these the Isamal bones? Are these in Germany today? Or Paris?

Meanwhile, no answers are forthcoming. But the Isamal have every reason to know. Repatriation of ancestral remains is a worldwide issue and they would not lack for sympathizers. Among Filipino indigenous peoples, repatriation is not a novel concern for which there are eloquent precedents. Sometime ago, the mummified remains of a Cordillera ancestor were repatriated from Manila to its original burial chamber in the hinterlands.

Then there is the story of Ishi, one of the last among the vanished Yahi Indians, highlighted by the National Geographic. Abandoning the northern California wilderness in 1911, Ishi spent the end of his life living at the University of California's anthropology museum where he demonstrated Yahi traditions for visitors (using indigenous peoples as mere showcases was not a Filipino monopoly then). When Ishi died of tuberculosis in 1916, his body was cremated and his extracted brain eventually sent for storage to the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History. Two years ago, a group of California Native Americans reclaimed Ishi's brain and reunited it with his ashes.

In 1999, the remains of 2,067 Jemez Pueblo Indians were reburied at New Mexico's Pecos National Historical Park. They had been removed in the early 20th century and sent to the Harvard University's Peabody Museum. But a 1990 federal law enabled tribes to recover human remains and grave artifacts taken from ancestral lands. In 1999, the remains were driven non-stop from Harvard to Pecos where a thousand walkers and tribal leaders escorted the truck for a dramatic final two miles of the journey.

Filipino lumads are in a never-ending quest for their rightful place in society. High-profile persons such as those in show biz, who otherwise are engrossed in the inanities of life, can help dramatize the plight of the lumads. Politicians may relish the thought of landing on the pages of the National Geographic. Or Philippine Tatler.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Intellectual property rights are human rights

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

NOTHING would seem to be more self-evident. Yet the usual defenders of human rights don't often stoop so low as to champion a thing that contains within it the idea of, oh my God, private property.

Especially for things like software, copyrights, patents, trademarks and other intellectual properties, there is an atmosphere of rampant lawlessness. It is abetted by "nationalists" and "anti-imperialists" who justify plain stealing by its ubiquity, convenience, the poverty of the oppressed, economics, or the excuse that the victims of plagiarism, piracy and infringement, are usually foreigners anyway.

But not always. From where I sit in real life, as an author and editor of mathematical and scientific works done purely by Filipinos for Filipinos, many crimes against intellectual property rights are committed by Filipinos against other Filipinos. The just enforcement of existing laws against plagiarism, copyright infringement and piracy, is stymied by the widespread acceptance of such criminality when done against foreigners and also, the crookedness of judges in the justice system.

Bill Gates has become the icon of the deluded notion that piracy hurts foreign companies like his. Ironically, piracy has only secured a nearly 100 percent market share for Microsoft products, by making them the automatic, cheap and easy choice for consumers and users of software and computers. Piracy thus keeps legal software prices high by preventing normal market competition and innovation from driving them down.

Now to all who cavalierly accept the moral relativism of the idea that it's okay to steal from "imperialist oppressors" or "monopoly capitalists," you have probably not seen the pain of Filipinos upon whom the same acts of piracy or plagiarism are perpetrated. For Filipino authors of literary and scientific works, the loss of something built by the labor of their minds over years, at the hands of the unscrupulous, is as devastating as the loss of a child to a kidnapper or a rapist. And as in those crimes, the perpetrators are often persons known to the victims, their former friends or colleagues. This only makes the tragedy and pain of it, unbearable to behold.

Where in the world does this double standard of morality come from anyway?

Perhaps it comes from the deep well of unrelieved resentment that rightly or wrongly, so dominates our nationalist expression.

Many of our earnest social reformers and commentators have not expurgated the unexamined streaks of socialist idealism they learned as activists and street protestors. Despite the unequivocal failure of communism over a decade ago, and that of fascism and militarism, the news does not seem to have reached the ideologues that humanity is firmly on the road to global capitalism and liberal democracy (the rule of law, not the dictatorship of the proletariat).

I am dismayed that great modern statesmen, like Vice President Teofisto Guingona, and many thinkers who ally themselves with him, are often mired in the fallacies of what, for lack of a better term, I would call, a mentality of masochism. They long ago discovered, and became addicted to the great emotional power that is derived from constantly declaring and believing that the Filipinos have been continuously oppressed by foreign tyrants, mainly the United States, or their local surrogates. Seen through the prism of victimhood, all is bleak and hopeless, but for the courage and eloquence of the declaimers.

Take Vice President Guingona's statement reported yesterday, warning that the pro-American stance of the administration against global terrorism, could lead to the reimposition of martial law. What a self-serving stretch of illogicality to justify his totally unpopular position on the issue of re-engagement with America. What a hideous insult to the intelligence of the Filipino people.

The real reason why martial law no longer exists, and the guarantee that it never shall again, is the firm rejection by the people of totalitarian rule of any kind, fascist or communist. How can he forget that Marcos fell because people, exercising the power of popular will, decided he should be consigned to the dustbin of history? Does he doubt the historical maturity of the Filipino people and the resolve of "Never again!"? Not even America with nuclear bombs could impose martial law now and not face the full force of people power.

If there is anything remarkable about the fall of Marcos, it was its swiftness once the people had decided.. And if there is anything to regret, it is the fact that it took our people so long. That procrastination we can hardly blame on foreigners, even if they supported Marcos. For what power did the people not have in 1972 that they suddenly had in 1986? It is self-excusing to claim that the perpetuation of Marcos was an American plot, rather than being due to our own inability to get rid of the dictator ourselves. In the end, it didn't take "surrounding the cities from the countryside" or kicking the American bases out, to get rid of the scoundrel, just flowers and rosaries and the will of the people.

Guingona's dire warnings about martial law arising from anti-terrorist precautions won't scare the people into adopting his attitude of useless nationalist resentment against America, even if they share his remembrances of the tragedies and detest the injustices of the past.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocob@yahoo.com

Street price of newspapers

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

SOME people are not content with knowing the news from radio and television. They have to read it in the newspaper. For them, news has to be in black and white before they believe it.

So every morning, unless they've made arrangements with their friendly newspaper distributor for home delivery, they go to the nearest newsstand to buy their favorite broadsheet or tabloid. The cover price of the tabloid ranges from P6 to P9, while it's P15 or P18 for broadsheets, depending on the day it comes out. Some broadsheets charge higher for their Sunday edition.

A reader, Col. Ben Paguirigan, Jr. (ret.) of Zamboanga City, sent a handwritten letter to this column calling attention to the amount he pays for indulging in his daily reading habit. He wrote: "My day is not complete without reading the INQUIRER. In Tuguegarao, Cagayan, newsstands give it for P19 to P20 each but newsboys will sell it for P25 a set.

"In Ilagan, Isabela, newsstands and newsboys peddle it for P17, while in Zamboanga City where I'm now residing after my retirement, sidewalk vendors sell it at P18 each but newsboys will not part with it unless you pay P22 to P25, depending if you are a '*suki*.'

"I won't mind the price of your newspaper but what riles me is that there is always a missing section, once, twice or even thrice a week. Just bought my INQUIRER today at the corner vendor, but to my surprise a section is also missing.

"In the provinces, they will tell you '*yan lang ang dumating*,' so you have to take it with a grain of salt, but not in Metro Manila. Aren't we readers being cheated? Can you do something?"

Cover price

The concern raised by the reader about the additional cost of the INQUIRER in the provinces applies to all Metro Manila-based newspapers. The newspapers are sold to the dealers for an amount lower than the printed selling price. The copies in turn are sold to sub-dealers and newsboys who add a peso or two to the purchase price to cover their profit margin.

The amount added by the newsboys to the cover price varies, depending on the place where the newspaper is sold, the number of buyers and copies of the newspaper allocated to the newsstand by the authorized dealer for the city or province concerned.

If delivering the newspaper entails the use of several means of transportation, such as boat, jeepney and tricycle, the transportation expenses could increase the cover price by P10 or more.

Following the law of supply and demand, if the number of readers exceed the allocated newspaper copies, expect the enterprising newsboy to tack on a peso or two, or whatever amount the market can bear, on the cover price.

Last year, I received a letter from a reader from the Bicol region who complained that copies of the INQUIRER are usually sold out by 7 a.m. To ensure the regularity of his supply, he orders his household helper to watch out for the dealer's van as early as 5:30 a.m. and "intercept" it and buy his copy for the day. The extra effort however does not exempt him from the P3 additional price.

In a town south of Manila, newsboys do not accept orders for the INQUIRER from walk-in buyers. They have to reserve their copies ahead of time and pay a premium for the delivery service. They get their copies with their handwritten names.

Dealer price

According to the head of the INQUIRER's circulation department, his staff has no control over the selling price of the newspaper once the copies are delivered to the authorized dealers.

In the Metro Manila area, the dealers are able to maintain the integrity of the cover price because the selling arrangement they have with the company allows them to earn reasonable profits without engaging in price-gouging.

But the situation is different outside the metropolis where transportation costs represent a major expense in the budget of newspaper dealers. Much as the INQUIRER wants to keep its selling price as close as possible to the cover price, it recognizes the troubles the dealers or newsboys have to go through to deliver the newspaper to their customers. In these places, free market forces determine the actual selling price of the INQUIRER.

The head of circulation added that he has received complaints about the high cost of the newspaper in the areas being serviced by the INQUIRER's printing presses in the cities of Cebu and Davao. The subscribers in these places question the P3 or P4 mark-up on the cover price considering that the on-site printing of the INQUIRER has relieved the dealers of the transportation and delivery expenses they used to incur.

On this point, the circulation head explained that they are currently discussing with the Visayas and Mindanao dealers the measures to be adopted to keep the selling price as close as possible to the cover price without impairing the profit stream of the dealers.

Missing sections

With regard to the missing sections of the INQUIRER, the circulation chief said this is a problem that rears its ugly head time and again in spite of the measures they have taken to avoid it.

The disappearance of certain newspaper sections may be traced to errors in printing, misplaced bundles or failure of the dealers to properly sort out and compile the copies delivered to them.

One of the measures taken by the newspaper to ensure that the readers get a complete set of the newspaper they buy is to indicate on the front page the number of pages and sections a particular edition contains. In this way, the reader is put on notice about the contents of an issue so he can double-check his set before he brings it home.

If the number of sections delivered is correct, the missing section may have been inadvertently missed by the dealer or two or more copies of a section were inserted in one set and so some of the sets do not get all the copies of the sections for that day.

The circulation head gave the assurance that his staff is doing everything possible to make sure the readers get their money's worth every time they shell out their hard-earned money to buy their favorite newspaper.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Pag-IBIG restructuring open to all borrowers

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ALLOW us to clarify some misunderstanding that may have been brought about by our advertisement on the Pag-IBIG Housing Loan Restructuring and Penalty Condonation Program.

In the Sept. 5, 2002 issue of the INQUIRER, Emmanuel V. Sierra of Trece Martirez City, Cavite wrote after inquiring and learning that "Pag-IBIG has no similar program for such borrowers" (meaning borrowers who were up-to-date with their loan payments).

Fact is, there is no separate program for up-to-date borrowers as they too are covered under the existing restructuring program. The restructuring program is available to:

(1) Borrowers who are updated

(2) Delinquent borrowers

Firstly, loan restructuring is open to updated (those who pay on time) Pag-IBIG housing loan borrowers who may want to shorten or lengthen their loan term or avail of the lower interest rates featured in the program.

Secondly, loan restructuring with penalty condonation is aimed at helping delinquent borrowers settle their accounts through affordable terms. By delinquent we mean those who have failed to pay their amortization for at least three months; those whose properties have been foreclosed by Pag-IBIG; borrowers whose loan terms have expired and CTS accounts which have been cancelled due to delinquency, among others.

In our advertisement, we may have focused too much on our delinquent borrowers—those whose properties are in danger of being foreclosed, and those whose properties have already been foreclosed. This is in consideration of the imperative need to immediately inform them and deliver our message, that is our only excuse. As regards the updated members, we intend to advise them in writing.

—MARGIE A. JORILLO,
officer in charge,
Public Affairs and Information
Office, Home Development
Mutual Fund, Atrium of Makati,
Makati Avenue, Makati City

More questions on a theme

GMA-7 News has been featuring an interview with a couple of doctors in a hospital who say that thousands of pedestrians are hit by vehicles every year. (I don't doubt that.) They then conclude that the accidents result from sidewalk vendors forcing pedestrians to walk on the streets. (That, I doubt.)

How valid is that conclusion? Do police statistics support it? Pardon my skepticism but most of such accidents occur when pedestrians cross the streets, vendors or no vendors.

As for the second part of the report, the disabled man who was interviewed admitted that vendors aren't the only sidewalk obstructions. If permanent obstructions such as fire hydrants and Meralco posts aren't removed, what good would removing vendors do for the disabled?

—FRANCISCO YOSUICO

The little people who saved Subic

LEST we all forget, it was the people of Olongapo who, despite losing the debate to retain the US bases in 1991, volunteered and unified to work for the idea of transforming Subic Naval Base into a freeport at a time when it was unpopular and unthinkable to do so due to insurmountable risks at hand: the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and the economic dislocation of over 42,000 base workers.

I am glad that we recognize the wisdom of the decision of the 12 great senators by building a monument and even casting the imprints of their hands in stone, but we should not forget the sacrifices made by the little people of Olongapo—the jeepney drivers, market vendors, teachers, old women, youth, etc.—who took a "leap of faith" after being fired-up and convinced by Mayor Richard Gordon to volunteer without financial remuneration to protect and preserve from looting the $8-billion facilities left behind by the Americans. It is because of their honesty and hard work that global investors like FedEx, Shell Malampaya, Coastal, Enron, ACER, Thompson, BICC, etc. came in, as did the 18 heads of state like Clinton, Zemin, Hashimoto, etc. who went to Subic for the 4th Apec Leaders' Summit in 1996.

—LOUIS D. PAWID III,
14 Cactus St., Binictican,
Subic Bay Freeport,
Olongapo City

Time to speak up, be heard

THIS is an appeal to members of the silent majority to start speaking up. There are many in this group who are good, upright, productive citizens who do not raise their voices unless the issues are big and they are driven to the point of exasperation. It is the small vociferous minority that holds way in the media.

A case in point is the issue of the vendors being driven out of sidewalks and streets by the MMDA chair. Many people I have talked to support Bayani Fernando's efforts to return the sidewalks to the pedestrians and the streets to the motorists.

Of course, one cannot quarrel with the noble objective of helping the poor. But let us help them raise themselves to a higher economic level. Let us not allow them to pull us down.

But fair is fair, Fernando should also turn his attention to the cars parked on sidewalks and the need for traffic management in Metro Manila. Our traffic is getting worse because the number of cars is increasing daily and there is no apparent traffic planning. Many residents do not have parking spaces and more and more car owners are using the streets as their garages. Buildings too do not provide adequate parking spaces.

Every problem has a solution. There are many measures we can adopt to ease the situation such as:

1. One-side parking on some not too busy streets.
2. Absolute ban on parking on certain streets.
3. The planning of traffic flow and a system on one-ways.
4. Strict enforcement of traffic rules especially on passenger loading areas.

Barangays should be consulted in traffic planning and they can help in traffic enforcement.

I urge the people to voice out their complaints and suggestions to impress on public servants that we citizens cannot be taken for granted.

—R. A. RAYMUNDO,
451 P. Gil St., Ermita, Manila

Fernando: anti-poverty, not anti-poor

BAYANI Fernando's critics have got it all wrong. His campaign to rid the sidewalk of illegal vendors is not anti-poor as they insist.

To be accurate, it is anti-poverty. This is because tolerating illicit sidewalk commerce is actually denying that there may, in fact, be better alternatives to violating the law to earn a living. It is something like giving a man a piece of fish to feed him for a day, forgetting that a fishing pole and fishing lessons could feed him for life.

To rally against Fernando is to protest against good governance. It is to protest against the orderly and reliable delivery of such basic services as working telephones, efficient water and power utilities, free-flowing traffic and sidewalks that are clean of petty crime, garbage and yes, illicit commerce.

It is to protest against attracting tourists, bringing in investors and allowing a weak economy like ours to get going once again, and start generating more jobs, and better (than sidewalk vending) income opportunities.

It should not take a rocket scientist to see the point. Surveys, in fact, show that it is clear to a good majority of us what our priorities ought to be these days.

But, hey, if Rep. Augusto Syjuco and all those photo-ops-driven critics of Fernando still don't get it, let them read our lips: It's the economy, stupid.

—ZAL MARTE,
Rm. 202 Richmond Bldg.,
6 New York St. corner
E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City

No foreign mining interests for Diwalwal

YOUR editorial cartoon last Sept. 17 depicted the gold-rich Mt. Diwalwal being threatened by the fears raised by some groups in connection with the government's current efforts for the gold-rush area.

To allay the fears of these groups, let me clarify that in the whole mine management plan now being formulated for Diwalwal, there are no foreign mining companies being considered by the government.

The only possible tapping of foreign resources being looked into is in the form of foreign-assisted projects for the resolution of the various issues in the area, including environmental, livelihood, rehabilitation, health and such other important concerns.

Currently, the government has pending proposals for assistance from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Unido) for the assessment and evaluation of mercury dispersion in the Diwalwal mining area, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) for the remediation of the heavily polluted Naboc River.

The USAID proposal was, in fact, the subject of US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and USAID chief Michael Yates' presence during President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Diwalwal last Sept. 5, 2002.

More than criticizing or being suspicious, therefore, their presence should be hailed since this signaled a keen interest on their part to help President Macapagal and Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez implement a comprehensive social justice program for the miners, with due consideration for the environment and human health.

The government's intervention in Diwalwal is chiefly aimed at resolving the problems besetting the area and its people, including the small-scale miners. The government is there to ensure that the sustainable mining operation in the area will eventually result in an equitable distribution of wealth.

—EDWIN G. DOMINGO,
assistant director, Mines and Geosciences
Bureau, Department of Environment and
Natural Resources, North Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

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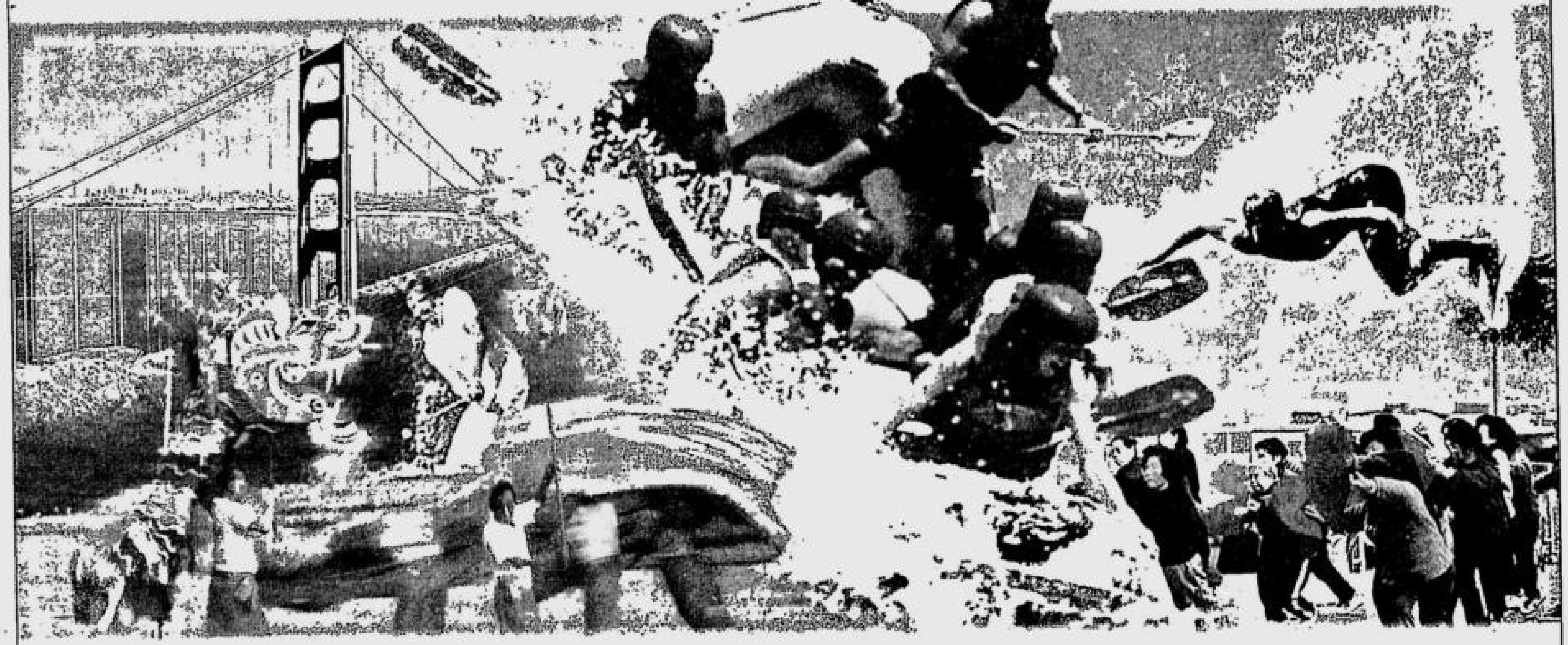

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Protests grow as Israel hoists flag at Arafat HQ

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Thousands of Palestinians, many defying military curfews, poured into West Bank and Gaza streets Sunday to protest Israel's assault on Yasser Arafat's headquarters, and four demonstrators were killed by army fire.

In the battered compound, Israeli threatened several times over loudspeakers to blow up the building where Arafat is holed up—the only one left standing—unless wanted men inside surrendered, witnesses said.

Israel initially called for the surrender of 19 Palestinian officials, including members of the intelligence service and the Force 17 bodyguard unit.

On Saturday, a senior Army officer taking reporters on a tour of Arafat's compound said Israel wanted 50 men to give themselves up. Army officials said the figure increased because Israel initially did not have a complete picture of who is inside.

Israel has said it does not intend to harm Arafat, and the Army later said it had no plans to blow up the building.

Israel's deputy defense minister, Weizman Shiri, said Arafat was free to leave the country but would not be allowed to return.

"We'll give him a one-way ticket in a dignified way," Shiri told Army Radio on Sunday. Some Cabinet ministers called for Arafat's expulsion.

Shiri did not say which country could be likely destination. "If he decides he wants to get out we'll find him a good place," he said.

Israel, preparing for a long standoff, planted an Israeli flag on top of Arafat's office building. Officials said troops would not withdraw from the compound before the wanted men surrender, and left open the possibility that even then they might not leave.

Early Sunday, Arafat's Fatah movement led protest marches in the West Bank and Gaza towns, some defying Israeli military curfews.

In Gaza City, thousands marched in front of the Palestinian parliament building in Gaza City, protesting the Israeli operation. Abu Mohammed, an armed member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades militia, linked to Arafat's Fatah, said, "It is time for all Palestinians to teach the Israelis a lesson and defend Arafat."

In Ramallah, just a few kilometers from Arafat's compound, troops fired tear gas and bullets to disperse hundreds of men, women and children chanting, "Long live Arafat, long live Palestine." Two protesters were killed by Army fire, hospital officials said.

Two more people were killed in Tulkarem and the Balata refugee camp next to Nablus. In Tulkarem, gunmen walking in a crowd of about 1,200 people traded fire with Israeli troops, witnesses said. In the town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip, about 5,000 people joined the protests, some firing submachine guns into the air and holding up Arafat pictures.

Israel military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said soldiers opened fire on armed Palestinians after warning shots were ignored.

In the West Bank town of Jericho, about 400 protesters marched to a local prison, demanding the release of six men held under US and British supervision as part of a deal that prompted Israel to lift its siege of Arafat's compound in May. The foreign monitors threatened to leave, saying they felt endangered by the mob, according to security officials in Jericho. *AP*

AN ISRAELI soldier walks amid the rubble of the devastated compound of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

Poised for battle

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast—Rebels and troops loyal to Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo were poised for battle on Sunday in the most serious crisis to hit the West African country since independence from France in 1960. A French military source said loyalists on Sunday morning encircled Ivory Coast's second largest city Bouake, which is 350 km from the main city Abidjan and held by dissident soldiers, angry at being forced out of the army.

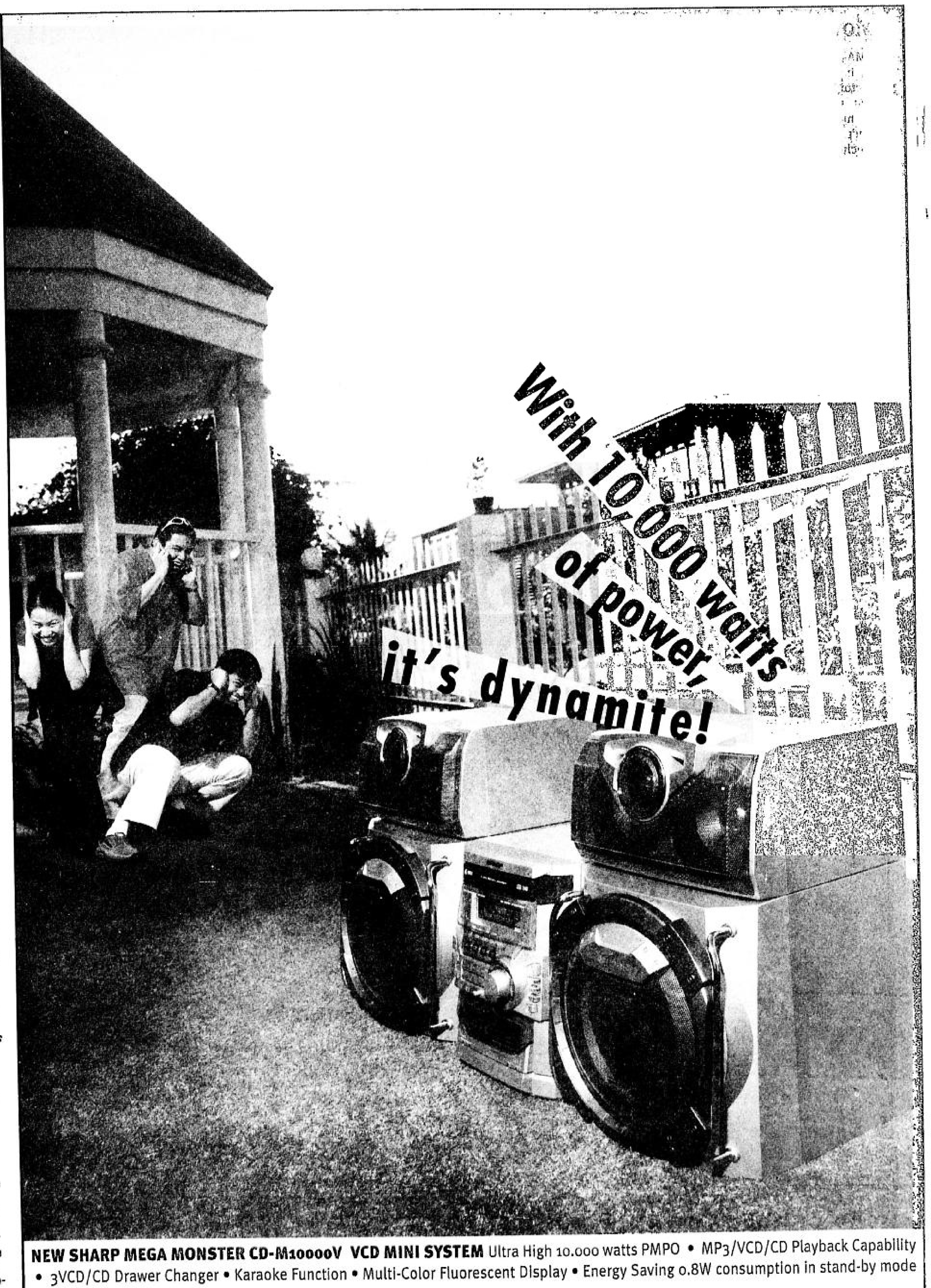
"The loyalist forces are going to intervene in a few hours. They left Yamoussoukro at 6.30 . . . They are now surrounding Bouake," he told Reuters by phone in Bouake. State television said on Saturday that 270 people had been killed and some 300 injured so far in a bloody uprising by dissident soldiers which started on Thursday and has left swathes of the country in rebel hands. *Reuters*

War with Singapore?

SINGAPORE—A Malay Muslim organization which has forecast a war between Singapore and Malaysia within three years is openly using the Internet to recruit "field operatives" with a military background. Several of the stated aims and articles featured on the Harimau organization website are similar to the objectives of the militant Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the focal group in the arrest of more than 30 suspected terrorists in Singapore. A government report on the latest 21 arrested said their targets included vital water supply pipelines from Malaysia, and among their aims was to stir up ethnic strife claiming Chinese Singaporeans were threatening Malay-Muslims in Malaysia. A feature article on the Harimau website is headlined "Nations on the brink of war: Singapore and Malaysia" and carries the prediction that Singapore will invade Malaysia in 2005. *AFP*

Avalanche kills 150

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia—As rescuers resumed picking through the trail of destruction left by a huge chunk of glacier that crashed down a mountainside in southern Russia, officials said Sunday that the avalanche may have killed as many as 150 people. Emergency workers pulled a second body out of a mass of ice, mud and debris that covered part of a village, said Boris Dzgoyev, emergency situations minister of the Russian republic of North Ossetia. Earlier, officials said 17 villagers whose houses had been destroyed were considered dead even though their bodies had not been found. Ninety-four people were reported missing by relatives, officials said. *AP*



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Bush weighs options on war with Saddam

WASHINGTON—The United States appears to be moving inexorably toward military action, girded by Iraq's defiant warning that it will refuse any new UN conditions on disarmament.

President George W. Bush is now weighing military options in Iraq since he received top secret Pentagon scenarios at the beginning of the month, the New York Times said.

"The president has options now, and he has not made any decisions," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said, in stark contrast to repeated assertions that Bush had "no war plan on his desk." Pentagon sources said that the highly detailed options were given to Bush by General Tommy Franks, the commander of US forces in the Gulf.

Franks said Saturday from Kuwait, a likely springboard for any UN-backed attack on Iraq, that US forces were "prepared to undertake whatever activities and whatever actions we may be directed to take by our nation." But in Baghdad, just five days after the announcement that weapons inspectors could resume their work "without conditions" following a four-year break, the regime issued a new challenge to Washington.

The US administration, which seeks to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, is pushing for a tough new Security Council resolution that would include a military option should Iraq renege on commitments to disarm.

However an Iraqi government spokesperson said Baghdad opposed any new conditions following "press reports that US officials are trying to get the Security Council to issue new, bad resolutions." US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld immediately dismissed Iraq's statement, jeering at it as just another attempt to "jerk the United Nations around" and said that he wasn't "surprised" at the development. *AFP*

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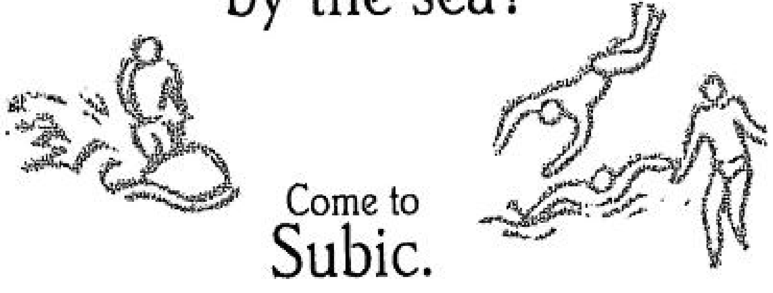
by the sea?



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THE "THAI Scorpion Queen," Kanchana Ketkeaw, reads a magazine with scorpions as she sets out for a new Guinness World Record for "the longest stay with scorpions" in Pattaya on Sept. 21. AFP

'Scorpion Queen' aims for record

BANGKOK—A Thai woman has settled in to what she hopes will be a world-record 32-day stay in a glass case filled with thousands of deadly scorpions, she said Sunday.

Kanchana Ketkaew, aptly dubbed the "Scorpion Queen," began her shot at a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records on Saturday, when she stepped into the special 12-square-meter cell fitted with a bed, television, books and 3,000 poisonous scorpions in a shopping mall in Pattaya, south of Bangkok.

"It's such a challenge to do this; most people are so afraid of these creatures," the 30-year-old told AFP by telephone from her temporary new home. "But scorpions are not ugly animals, they are so cute, just like baby crabs. They will only sting when they are frightened."

Kanchana was stung twice on the first night, which put attendant doctors on alert, but she said she was unphased by the attacks.

Kanchana has performed with a host of critters—including scorpions and centipedes—for seven years at a snake farm on Samui island, steadily building up her immunity to the poison, she explained.

"This is the first time for me to do something like this, but I want to do it for Thailand, for Koh Samui, and for Ripley's," she said.

Over 100 cringing onlookers were on hand at the weekend to cheer and gawk as she entered the glass room, according to representatives of Ripley's Believe It or Not, which is coordinating the record attempt.

The large black insects could be seen crawling all over her torso and arms, across her books and bed as she spoke with visibly nervous photographers who had stepped inside to snap pictures.

The previous record of 30 days was set last year by a 26-year-old Malaysian woman, Malina Hassan, who was stung seven times and fell unconscious. *AFP*

200 more poisoned in China

BEIJING—More than 200 people—including 110 school students—have fallen ill in two separate food poisoning outbreaks in China, a week after 38 died from eating food laced with rat poison, state media said Sunday.

The incidents happened as state media revealed rat poison has become a favorite tool for murder by poisoning and is being widely used to kill people instead of just rats.

Lethal poisons intended to kill rodents are available in markets, with little regulation and supervision over licensing, manufacturing and sales, reports said.

However the latest poisoning cases did not appear to have involved malicious intent.

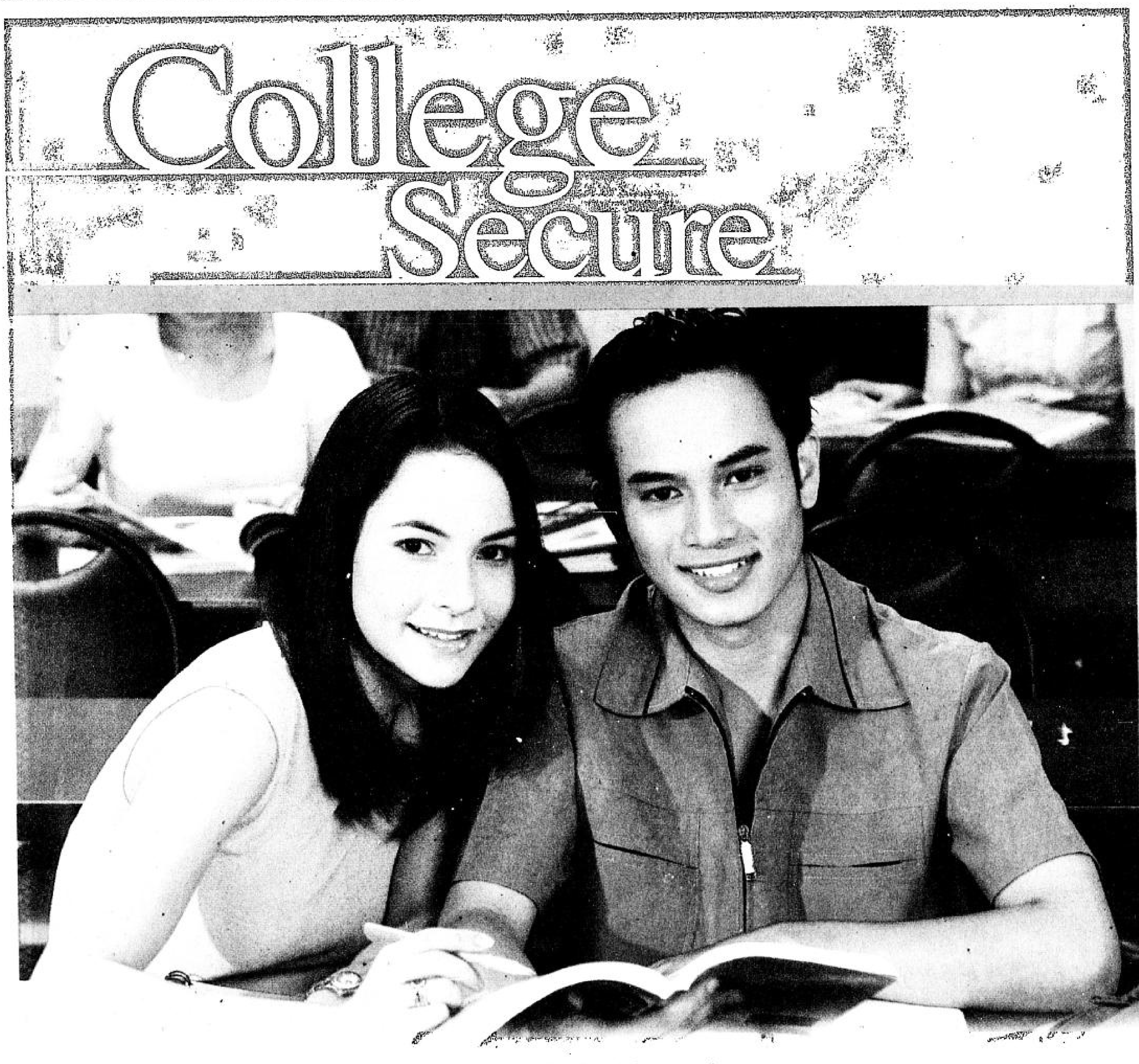
In southern China's Guangdong province, 106 people in Longshi village in Heping county were rushed to hospital with weakness, dizziness, nausea and diarrhea Saturday after eating beef the previous night, the Yangcheng Evening News said.

All of the victims are in a stable condition following treatment.

The villagers bought the beef from two brothers who found one of their calves dead and decided to sell the beef quickly, offering it from house to house.

The calf is believed to have died from eating pesticide-laden vegetables, including brussel sprouts, the report said.

In the northern Chinese province of Hebei on Friday, 110 students were treated at hospitals for headaches and stomach pain after they ate fried chicken paddies, bean strips and bread from a snack vendor outside their school. *AFP*



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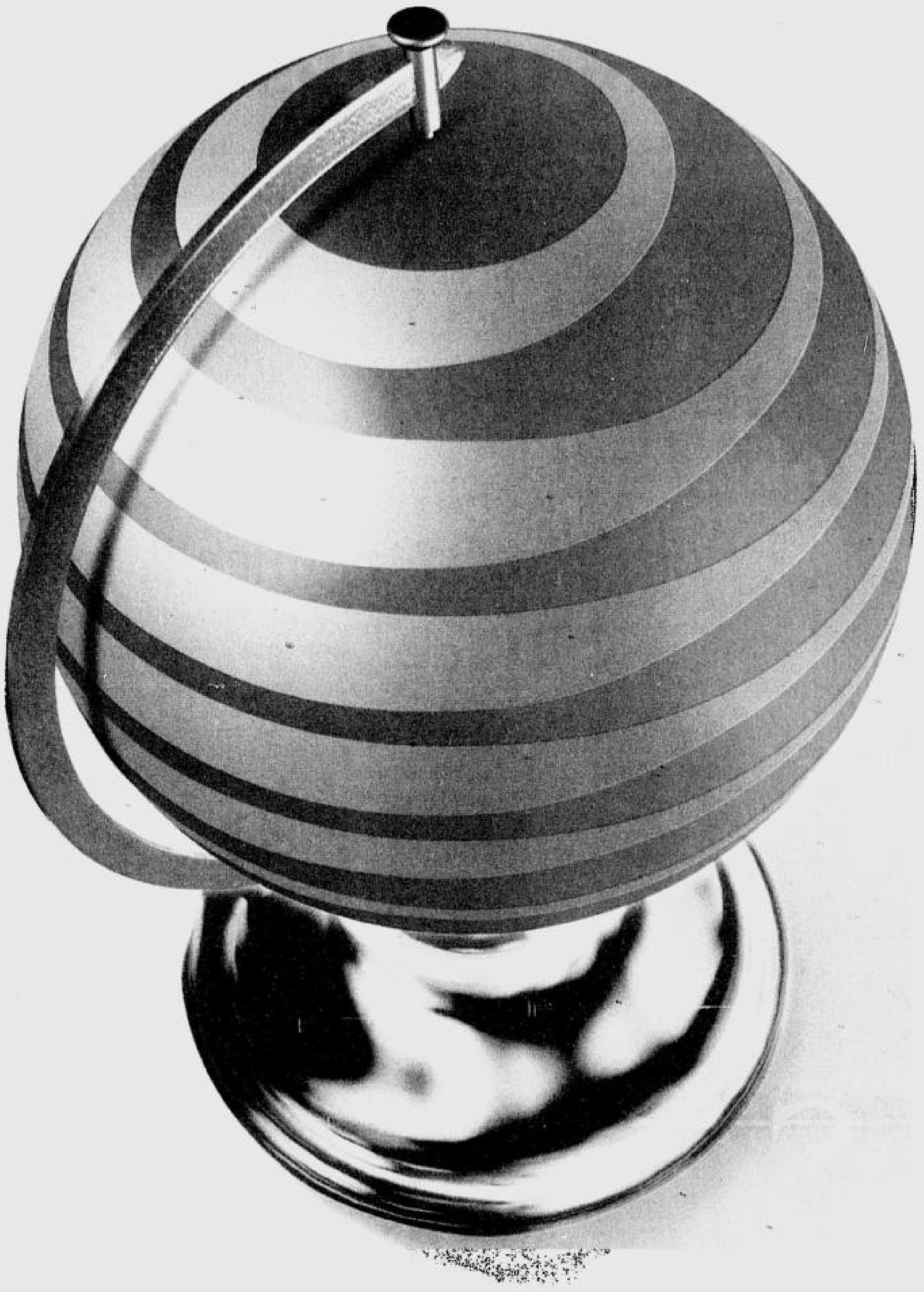

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Benguet drops beauty pageant for adventure race on foundation day

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Benguet Tourism Council (BTC) has dropped its annual Benguet foundation day beauty pageant in favor of an adventure race that would feature mountaineers who will brave the toughest terrain in the province.

The decision to drop the Miss Benguet beauty pageant, which usually complements the Nov. 23 Benguet Day celebration, was "a pragmatic one, rather than a political statement."

"The (BTC members) took a vote on running another beauty pageant given its huge budget requirements, and they all decided to experiment with this adventure race," Cesar Cheong, vice president of the Cordillera Mountaineers Association (CMA), said.

"We have mountaineer women, we have female mountain bikers and we have beautiful tourist spots nobody had ever seen. We end up (marketing) Benguet better this way."

The group will handle the first Benguet Adventure Race on Nov. 23 and 24.

Women's groups here were elated by the news.

"At least the (BTC) realizes that beauty pageants are exploitative. Instead of using money—the people's money—on commodifying women's bodies just to celebrate a province's foundation day, they can channel these funds to more meaningful projects," said Imelda Tabiando, a member of the Innabuyog-Gabriela.

Mignon de Leon, BTC chair, said the adventure race was an innovation of attempts to draw tourists to travel spots outside Baguio.

The 36-hour time-trial race would take participants through the Tukang Cave (also known as Aran cave) in Tuba town; the Bongis, Bengaongao and Paterno Caves in the La Trinidad-Ambongdalan cluster of caves; the waterfalls of Barangay Camog in Sablan town; the Sto. Tomas heights; and the Asin hydroelectric power plant facility.

Joel Belinan, a CMA organizer, said the adventure race would be interested in drawing all-female mountaineering teams, to trade against the loss of the Miss Benguet pageant.

"But this won't be an (easy event). They will undergo a grueling race, which will involve marathon hiking, mountain climbing, cliff side rappelling and lake swimming races. Something like a triathlon but on a mountain scale," he said.

Pampanga 'jueteng' persists despite cops' declaration

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Despite the declaration of police officials that Central Luzon was jueteng-free last week, jueteng has resumed in three of 20 towns and two cities of Pampanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province, on Friday.

However, police officials in the province said this was not an indication of a "large-scale comeback" of the illegal numbers game.

Jueteng was monitored to have started again in Macabebe, Magalang and Porac towns, according to Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director.

Although bets were being clandestinely collected in those areas, Mendoza said the operators, whom he did not identify, have quit holding draws that were usually held thrice daily.

Mendoza said operators now single-handedly chose the winning number combinations and announce these through text messaging in mobile phones. The scheme, called "jue-text," used to exist in this city until the police recently clamped down on the game operated by suspected financier Melchor Caluag.

Mendoza said this system is not an entirely new way of operating the illicit trade in this city whenever policemen went on a crackdown.

Despite this, he insisted there was "yet no resumption of jueteng" in the province.

Porac is also the hometown of Gov. Manuel Lapid who has publicly taken a tough stance against jueteng.

A jueteng bet collector told the INQUIRER that their *cabos* (supervisors) had given them the "go signal" to proceed with their usual jobs.

"They told us that the authorities just wanted the (jueteng) issue to die down that's why they asked us to temporarily stop collecting bets. Now it's okay to do our jobs again," the bet collector said.

Mendoza admitted that the operators have run the game in a "very organized" manner to be able to continue their operations amid the "100-percent jueteng-free target" of the police.

In this city, Mayor Reynaldo Aquino said Caluag, more popularly known as Ngongo, has ceased operating the game for almost two weeks.

Three men shot and wounded Caluag, also the barangay captain of Dolores, last Sunday. He survived the attack but is still confined at the St. Luke's Medical Center. *Tonette Orejas with a report from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cops protest 'politically motivated' relief

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Grave misconduct and abuse of authority charges were filed by a town mayor against Supt. Sancho Bernales, Bohol police provincial director, in connection with the relief of the town police chief and four other policemen involved in the arrest of a former vice mayor facing estafa cases.

Sagbayan Mayor Jimmy Torrefranca said the National Police Commission in Central Visayas (Region 7) headed by Charito Piga received the case he filed against Bernales on Sept. 17.

Torrefranca claimed that Insp. Precenciano Mansueto, Sagbayan police chief, and PO3 Teodulito Ngujo, PO3 Ador Suaybaguio, PO3 Lucrecio Compasion and PO1 Romelito Zarate were summarily relieved on Aug. 15 because they arrested a political ally of Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado and second district Rep. Roberto Cajes.

"It is 100 percent political," Torrefranca described the basis for the policemen's relief.

Earlier, Bohol newspapers had linked the cops' relief to the arrest of former vice mayor Castelar Borja who had outstanding warrants for a string of estafa cases.

Borja is a brother of former Sagbayan mayor Cesar Borja whom Torrefranca defeated in last year's elections. The Borjas are allies of Aumentado and Cajes.

Torrefranca alleged that the relief was "without due process of law, without proper consultation with the local authorities and adversely affecting the welfare of the people, and putting the security of the entire municipality in danger from the imminent attacks of our local dissidents and other criminal elements."

The mayor said the relieved policemen have no derogatory records in the town.

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Libel case vs PDI dismissed

ANGELES CITY—The prosecutor's office here has denied "for lack of merit" the motion for reconsideration on the dismissed libel case filed against INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot and former Pampanga correspondent Ashley Manabat.

In a resolution dated Sept. 10, Second Assistant City Prosecutor Gerardo Antonio Santos said he "finds no cogent reason to alter, modify, much less reverse" his original resolution that cleared Yambot and Manabat of libel charges.

Robin Nepomuceno, the barangay captain of Cutcut here, filed the libel charges against Yambot and Manabat in 1999 after an INQUIRER story written by Manabat mentioned his name as among the owners of a farm where several skeletal remains were dug up.

In his counter-affidavit, Nepomuceno said his family had sold the farm to its present owners in the 1970s.

The libel case was dismissed in 2000.

Santos said his original resolution was "based on existing principles and jurisprudence" and that the issues raised in Nepomuceno's motion for reconsideration "have already been sufficiently explained and appropriately resolved." *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Plan to reclaim land may be junked

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—For the first time since the controversial port reclamation issue came to the fore about seven years ago, Mayor Agustin Perdices said City Hall and the Philippine Ports Authority are exploring alternatives to reclamation.

Perdices said the need to put up a passenger terminal at the port area might be answered without pushing through the reclamation project that continues to face stiff opposition from environmentalists and the Silliman University.

"The Customs and Coast Guard buildings may be the site for the passenger terminal," Perdices said.

However, he said there was a need to talk with the two agencies before they submit the plan to PPA General Manager Al Cusi in Manila.

The plan called for the PPA to relocate the Coast Guard and the Customs buildings inside the compound of the City Engineer's Office. Silliman University and the Citizens Alliance for Responsible Development had suggested converting the CEO as the site of the fastcraft terminal building but Perdices said it was not an ideal site.

Perdices said this plan was an offshoot of his meeting with Cusi in Manila last week. Last Tuesday, the mayor met with local PPA and Silliman University officials at the City Hall to discuss the alternatives he presented to Cusi.

"We realized that Cusi serves at the pleasure of the President and I am also halfway into my term," Perdices explained. "If we wait for the decision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (on the PPA application for an Environmental Compliance Certificate), it might come out when both of us are no longer there so we decided to do something that would benefit the people."

The mayor said he and Cusi were looking for a win-win situation. "In one month's time, we will come up with a plan."

The Regional Development Council (RDC) in Central Visayas, which supports the project, had directed the DENR to speed up PPA's application for an ECC. However, DENR's five-man team of experts who would review the project proposal submitted by the PPA has yet to meet due to lack of funds.

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4 Don't contort your body when taking a reading as this may cause circulatory congestion. Sit up straight and position the cuff at heart level.

5. Blood pressure tends to rise after exercise and bathing. Rest for 20 minutes before measuring your BP to prevent inaccurate readings.

6 Room temperature should be around 20°C (=68°F). Temperature extremes can cause circulatory changes that affect blood pressure.

7 If you have to lie, lie on your back when taking your blood pressure. Lying on your side gives a different reading.

8 Avoid repeated measurements within a short period as this might congest your arm with blood, causing inaccurate blood pressure readings.

9 Use cuff directly over the skin. If you have to use it over fabric, do so over sleeves made of thin materials to prevent incorrect reading.

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MEASURE VS CRIME

Martial law not needed, say cops, ex-Marcos aides

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Crimes may be on the rise but the government should not turn to the imposition of martial law as a solution to this problem, a top police official in the Ilocos said.

"We have enough security program and systems in place. We are still in control and besides, there is no general breakdown of peace and order to warrant (the imposition of) martial law," said Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, Ilocos police director.

"Martial law was needed then (1972-1981) because of insurgency that was threatening the country's security. But these days, insurgency is not that widespread," he said during the turnover of command of the Pangasinan police on Friday.

Senior Supt. Arturo Cacdac, former Pampanga police director, was installed as Pangasinan police director replacing Senior Supt. Dominador Ventura.

Former Executive Secretary Jacobo Clave, who served under former President Ferdinand Marcos, said the country does not need military rule but "a strong executive officer" which President Macapagal-Arroyo is trying to project.

"She wants to appear as a working President but she is acting like a chief of police," Clave said, referring to Ms Macapagal's presentation of crime suspects to the media.

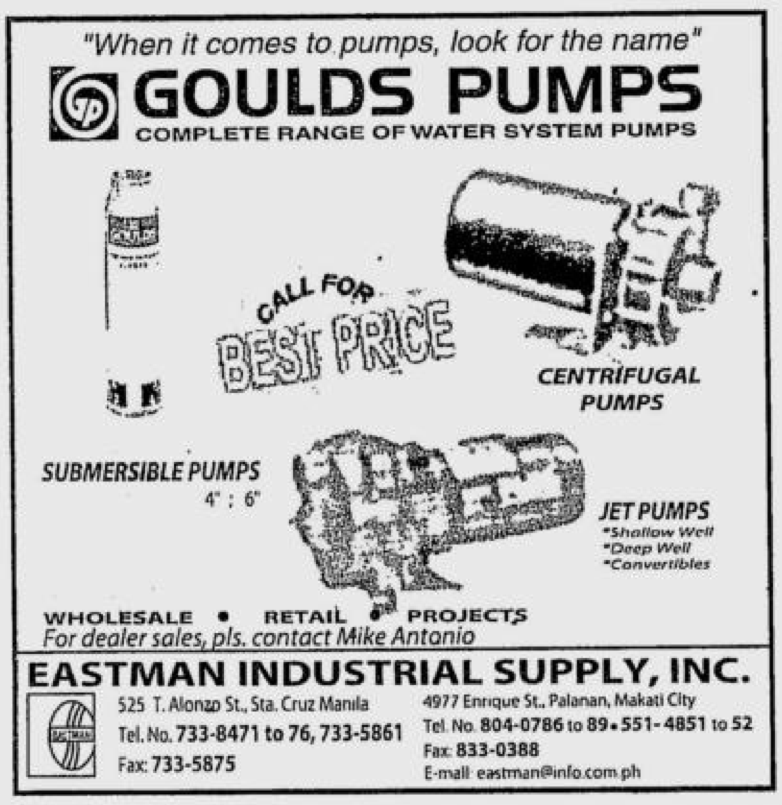
Retired Gen. Valerio Perez echoed Clave and Lomibao's statements saying, "martial law must be the President's last resort."

Perez said it was during the early years of martial law when the country "was at peace and everyone was disciplined."

"We don't need military rule now. There are measures that can still be adopted by the President like giving the local police and government officials more power to assure peace and order in their communities," he said.

In Baguio City (see photo at right), militants commemorated the anniversary of martial law by denouncing what they said was the continuing suppression of people's rights.

The militants, led by members of the partylist group Bayan Muna, said an example of this suppression was a bill that would fight terrorism but violate rights. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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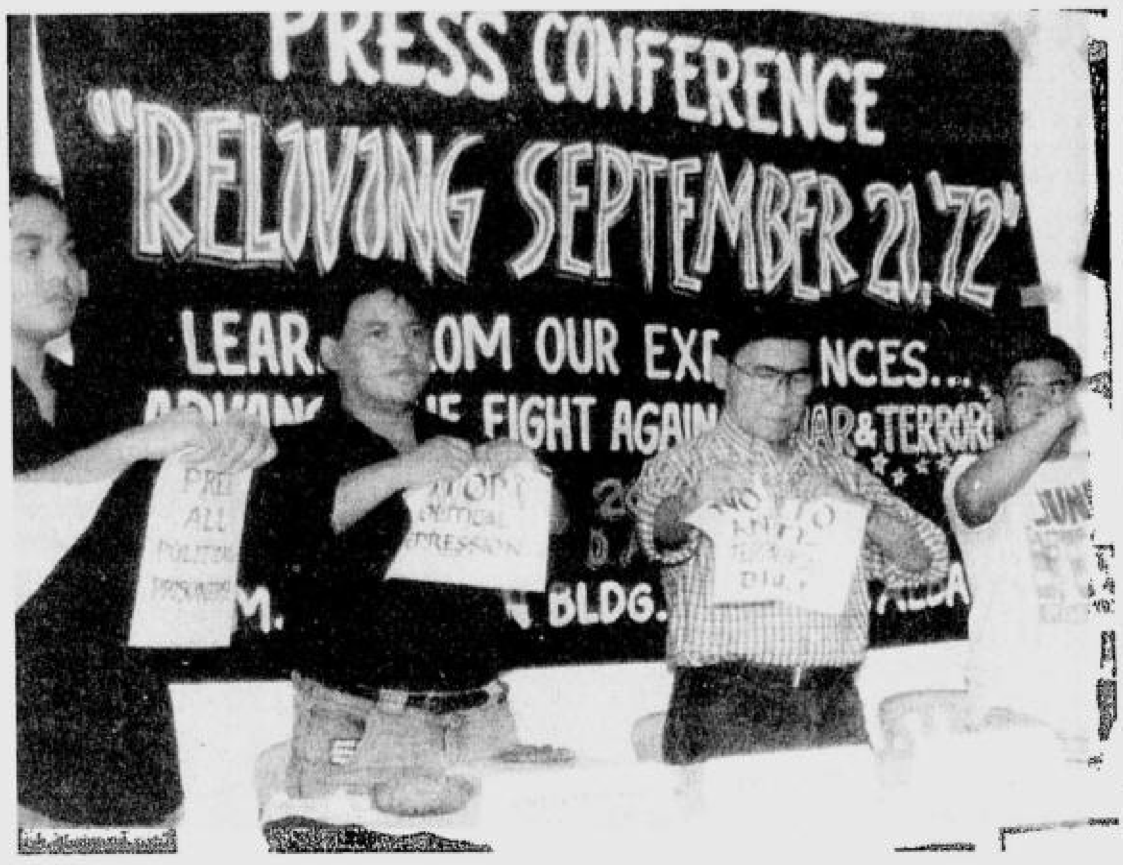
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STILL AT IT
Representatives of partylist group Bayan Muna, led by Rep. Crispin Beltran, tear up symbols of what they said was the continuing legacy of martial law in the country, including a bill that would supposedly deal with terrorism.

10-month-old boy released by abductor

ECHAGUE, Isabela—A 10-month-old boy kidnapped by a woman here on Wednesday was returned to his adoptive parents on Saturday after he was released in Metro Manila.

Police said Van Angelo Mangallan was released by his abductor, Zenaida Pedro, to Pedro's daughter Evelyn after negotiations led by the boy's parents and Mayor Leoncio Kiat.

Evelyn, 17, then went to Isabela on Saturday and returned the boy to his adoptive parents, Army Sgt. Edwin and Gloria Mangallan.

Reports said Zenaida Pedro demanded P200,000 from the Mangallans in exchange for their son and "for ruining her life."

Kiat, however, said no ransom was paid and the boy was safely returned to his parents.

Pedro, a former contract worker in Taiwan, abducted the boy on Sept. 18 after blaming the Mangallans, her former neighbors, for supposedly spreading rumors that led to her separation with her husband, Sgt. Eduardo Pedro. The Mangallans denied Pedro's accusations.

Pedro left a ransom note.

"We did (the rescue) in a peaceful manner and through clear actions . . . in a democratic way. Diplomacy worked this time," Kiat said.

Police, however, failed to arrest Zenaida Pedro. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Environment execs tag 19 Isabela areas as illegal logging 'hot spots'

ILAGAN, Isabela—Environment officials are closely watching 19 areas in Isabela after these were classified as "environmental hot spots" because of illegal logging.

Felix Taguba, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the 19 areas have lost substantial forest cover and resources because of illegal activities.

Taguba said environmental hot spots are areas facing serious threats of species loss and habitat destruction due to timber poaching, illegal logging and other destructive activities.

These hot spots are the forests of Cabiseria San Antonio, Bintacan, Nanaguan and Capellan in Ilagan town; Dalibubon in Jones town, Annafunan in Echague town and the forest areas of San Agustin town.

Also being watched are the villages of Buyasan and Del Pilar in San Mariano town, Simanu Norte in San Pablo town, Antagan in Tumauini town, Masipi in Cabagan town, Dipugo in San Guillermo town, Villa Concepcion in Cauayan City and Casili in Mallig town.

The remote coastal town of Palanan has four villages identified as hot spots. These are Bicobian, Maligaya, Dicadican and Diddadunganall.

Taguba said timber poachers and illegal loggers usually use carabaos to haul off logs taken from the province's forests. The activities of *kaingeros* (slash-and-burn farmers) also contribute to rapid forest cover loss in the province, he said.

In Pangasinan, officials of the Pangasinan State University and Rep. Amado Espino launched on Saturday the Greening the Mountain Again (Project GMA) project in Bugallon town to reforest the mountains of western Pangasinan.

At least 500 PSU students and teachers, residents and local officials planted about 50,000 seedlings in a seven-hectare public land in Bugallon on Saturday.

A nursery in Barangay Portic was established in March but already, there are 1.3 million seedlings of mahogany, eucalyptus, gmelina and acacia ready for planting in the mountains of western Pangasinan.

Espino said PSU students and residents are expected to volunteer to continue planting more seedlings in the town.

"For every tree that we plant, we are giving life to our country. What we are planting are a million trees, the first of the billion trees that the national government aims to plant in the country," he said.

Espino led the 'Save the Dying Lingayen Gulf' program in 1993 while he was Pangasinan police director.

The program led to the creation of the Lingayen Gulf Coastal Area Management Commission by former President Fidel Ramos in 1994. The LGCAMC, however, was abolished by President Macapagal-Arroyo last May. *Villamor Visaya Jr. and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-soldier in rob nabbed

DAVAO CITY—Police arrested on Thursday a former soldier for his involvement in a big time highway robbery in Compostela Valley in 1999.

Crisologo Macas, who became one of the region's most wanted person after the P9 million highway robbery involving a PCI Bank armored van in Barangay Tagnanan, Mabini in Compostela Valley on Dec. 7, 1999, was arrested in his house in Emily Homes in Cabantian, Buhangin District.

Macas' arrest came after the Regional Intelligence Investigation and Detection (RIID) created a special police 'crack team' to run after the 10 most wanted fugitives in Southern Mindanao.

In Toril District, suspected vigilantes on Thursday gunned down an ex-convict suspected of robbing a Korean last week.

Panes Gamados, 43, was earlier arrested but was released Tuesday for lack of evidence. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

E. Visayas measles cases doubled

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, Leyte—The regional office of the Department of Health in Eastern Visayas reported that the number of measles cases in the region doubled this year compared to last year.

Dr. Nicolas Bautista, chief epidemiologist of the DOH-8, told the INQUIRER that as of Sept. 17, six children have already died while 197 persons were afflicted with the disease.

Over the same period last year, only 39 cases with five deaths were reported by the DOH-8. This year, the youngest fatality was a nine-month-old baby girl from Tacloban City with a nine-year-old boy as the oldest fatality, also of the same city.

Bautista said that based on their records, Tacloban has the highest number of reported measles cases with 92 cases followed by Catbalogan, Samar with 29 cases.

However, no fatality was reported in Catbalogan. The other fatality came from Basey, Samar.

Bautista said the rise in the number of measles cases in the region could be blamed on the late arrival of anti-measles vaccines from the DOH central office.

"We really anticipated an increase of measles cases in the region," he said.

Bid to bar ex-mayor from polls junked

THE FIRST Division of the Commission on Elections has junked a petition to disqualify a former mayor as a candidate for the Sept. 24 recall elections for mayor of Puerto Princesa.

In an 18-page resolution on Friday, the division said Edward Hagedorn was qualified to run, saying the constitutional ban on a fourth executive term did not apply to him because he did not run for mayor in the 2001 elections.

Hagedorn ran for governor but lost.

Penned by Commissioner Mehol Sadain and concurred in by Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco and Resureccion Borra, the resolution said transcripts of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution showed that the period of hiatus from one's elected position did not mean one full term in office.

"We find...no clear indication in the records of the 1986 Constitutional Commission of what constitutes period of hibernation," the first division said in a statement announcing its decision.

Two petitions were filed seeking the disqualification of Hagedorn. The first was filed by Flores Adoyo and Mercy Gilo and the second by a certain Genaro Manaay.

Hagedorn's lawyers said the former mayor's service was interrupted after his third term when he did not run for mayor in the 2001 elections.

The decision, said his lawyers, paves the way for a three-way contest in the special elections.

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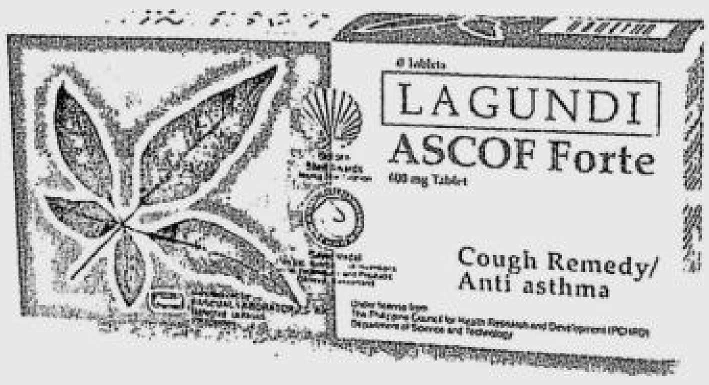

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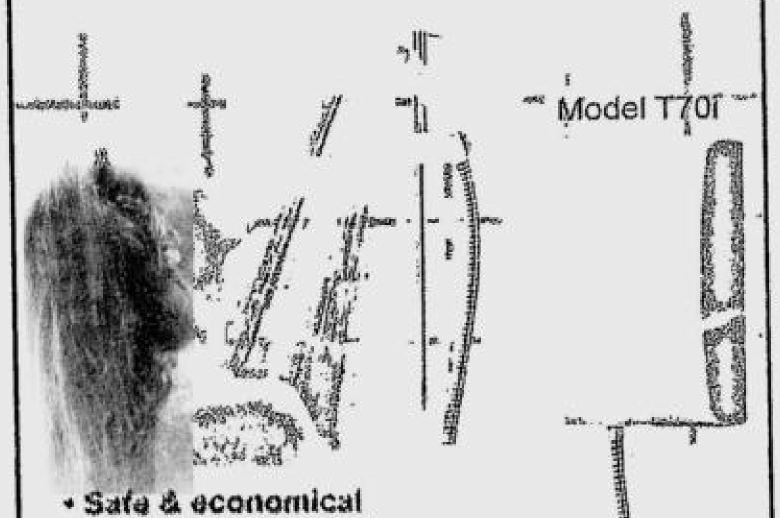

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Palace smells plot in road scam exposé

NATIONAL LAITY WEEK
President Macapagal greets Bishop Teodoro Bacani before the start of the eucharistic celebration of the National Laity Week at the Manila Cathedral. PCPO-MALACAÑANG

From page A1

listed men.

A day after the five leaders of the Council of the AFP Sergeant Majors, led by Master Chief Petty Officer Benjamin Rosario, issued the resolution, "civil society" leader Linda Montayre was reported as having urged the military to withdraw support from the Macapagal administration as it was corrupt.

Asked to identify anyone responsible for the destabilization campaign, the Palace source mentioned the statements of PEA Chair Ernest Villareal that were published Sunday.

Villareal was quoted as saying that a retired but still prominent military official and a lawmaker were behind the campaign. He did not name them.

"This is obviously political,'" Villareal had said, noting that the exposé on the alleged PEA scam "goes very, very deep."

He said he had received information that Pastor Boy Saycon, secretary general of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), helped circulate a report on the alleged scam that was prepared by whistleblower Sulficio Tagud Jr., a PEA director.

Villareal said Saycon was supposedly exhorting professors from a Manila-based school to send their students to a rally in front of the PEA office. Saycon, who has been critical of the administration, was earlier referred to as a "termite" by no less than Ms Macapagal.

In an interview over dzMM radio station, Saycon yesterday admitted that Copa had helped Tagud but only in the transmittal of his report to Malacañang.

Saycon said Tagud's report on the alleged scam was submitted Tuesday morning to the office of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, "but not to media."

Like Chavit

Asked about his evaluation of Tagud's report, Saycon said: "It's like those shown to us by Chavit Singson." Saycon was referring to the exposé in October, 1999 of then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that led to the impeachment and eventual ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

"The issue is where did the P1 billion go," Saycon said, referring to the loan from the Government Service Insurance System that financed the construction of part of the PDMA.

Tagud earlier said only the 2.3-km portion built by Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction (JDLC) was overpriced. The rest of the road was built by Shoemart Inc. and DM Wenceslao Consortium, which were promised by the PEA to be paid in land.

Tagud said the "price escalation" of the project, which was awarded in 1999 to JDLC, was approved by the new PEA board appointed by the Macapagal administration.

Saycon said Tagud's report did not contain anything about the supposed involvement in the scam of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo. The President's husband has strongly objected to insinuations that he had a hand in the overpricing of the PDMA.

On Thursday, Ms Macapagal ordered the PEA and GSIS to submit a written report in 72 hours for evaluation by Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz.

"She will not tolerate any wrongdoing in any of the branches of government," Bunye said. "The instructions of the President are for the PEA and GSIS to submit their explanations so we're expecting them to do so within the week."

Bunye said Malacañang was cool to proposals by some lawmakers for members of the PEA board to go on leave while the matter was being investigated.

"Well, that's the demand of some legislators, but we don't want to preempt the investigation," he said. "We'd rather first receive their (PEA and GSIS) explanation."

The press secretary declined to comment on Villareal's claim that a retired military official and a lawmaker were responsible for the dissemination of the Tagud report.

"I don't have any information on that. We don't have any comment," Bunye said.

Loyal to the government

In its resolution, the sergeant majors said they were solidly behind the administration. "In (these) trying moments when any group tends to destabilize the AFP and the duly constituted government, the enlisted personnel corps of the AFP, again, wholeheartedly, voluntarily and continually profess our loyalty to and full support for the commander-in-chief, the AFP and the Filipino people," the group said.

"We will thwart this move, and future moves of groups to sow intrigue and disunity in the AFP, and in the country by utilizing the enlisted personnel in the furtherance of their sinister ulterior motives," it added.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, chief of the AFP's public information office, said there was no basis for the allegation that military enlisted men were about to withdraw support from the administration.

"We would like to allay fears that the AFP is not solid behind the present government," Servando said. "We will make sure that we are not being used by any group for whatever political motive or purpose."

Asked who were behind the supposed destabilization plot, Servando said he had no idea. "We know there are reports coming out, being orchestrated by some group portraying the AFP as fragmented and not solidly behind the government."

On Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's allegation that 17,000 firearms were taken from the AFP armory at the height of the 1989 coup attempt, Servando said the military was conducting an inventory of its firearms. "I may have some figures by (Monday)," he said.

Political,business deals brewing in Vienna cafés

From page A1

junior partner, the far-right Freedom Party.

Chancellor Wolfgang Schussel called the elections following the breakup of the Freedom Party. Political observers here believe that the collapse of the coalition marks the halting of the trend to the far-right in Austrian politics—a tendency that has worried other democracies in the 15-member European Union.

The coalition broke up only half-way of the term of the government, making it the shortest-lived government in Austria's post-war history. The election, it is believed, could swing back Austria's politics toward the center.

Café Landtmann is as well strategically located. It is in the heart of Vienna's center of political, intellectual and cultural life. It is close to the Rathaus (city hall), the university, parliament, and the chancellery at the Hofburg Palace complex, once the seat of power of the Habsburg monarchy that ruled the former Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The café's guest list includes Sigmund Freud, Max Reinhardt, Marlene Dietrich, Romy Schneider and Burt Lancaster.

When we entered the café, all tables were full, even though it was already 11 a.m. There seems to be no dividing line between breakfast and lunch. The glossy breakfast menu states that breakfast may be served till 3 p.m.

When you are in Vienna, you do not only take good coffee. It is important that you know what coffee you want, for there are many kinds of coffee. We ordered cafe melange, a not too strong coffee with milk. In Vienna, one does not miss *sachertorte*, the rich chocolate cake served at Café Sacher. The cake is described as the "ambassador of Viennese desserts."

Café Mozart

Around the block is the equally famous Café Mozart.

The café was opened in 1794 and in the years between two world wars, it was the popular meeting place of artists who established their own styles after breaking out of the influence of French impressionist and expressionist schools of painting.

Café Mozart, however, has gained worldwide fame as the setting of the film, "The Third Man," depicting the cloak and dagger episode of espionage at the onset of the Cold War and starring Orson Welles. The film captured the atmosphere of Vienna as the center of espionage in the heart of Europe. Through it, Viennese are nostalgic over the Vienna that was beginning to rebuild itself from the rubble of war and was, like Berlin, divided into four sections by the Americans, British, French and Russians.

At the beginning of the 21st century, a British organization voted "The Third Man" as the best film of the 20th century. In Vienna today, it is shown at weekends in one of the cinemas.

Coffee houses in Vienna are deeply cherished institutions with extra-legal political functions. The head waiter of Café Landtmann is probably the most well-known man in Vienna. Every one calls him "Mr. Robert." He is the most sought-after man by journalists because he knows the political secrets of the town. Like the waiters in the important coffee houses, Mr. Robert is impeccably dressed, in smoking and he wears a black bow tie.

In Vienna, anyone can spend hours in the coffee shops, reading newspapers provided by the house, without getting hints from the waiter that he is staying too long. It is in Vienna where coffee houses have become revered institutions. It was in Vienna where the armies of Chistendom defeated the Turks who besieged the city for two months until they were crushed on Sept. 12, 1863. The Turks retreated to Hungary and were pushed further to the Balkans, but the lifting of the siege of Vienna marked a turning point in history. It stopped the sweep of the Turkish armies toward Europe and also halted the tide of Islam from moving into Europe.

Turkish legacies

But the Turks left two legacies. The first was, in celebration of the defeat of the Turkish armies, a baker concocted a bread in the shape of the crescent—the emblem of the Turks. The bread is now called "croissant." The second legacy was that the Turks, in their retreat, left a bag of green beans. The Viennese discovered that upon roasting, the beans had a seductive aroma, and what's more had an exotic taste. From that discovery proliferated Vienna's coffee houses.

This week, members of the outgoing parliament repaired to the coffee houses where they are more at ease making political deals than in the more official ambience of parliament, where political lines are more stiffly defined. In front of Café Landtmann, the political parties have already set up tents, signaling that the political campaign has begun.

What is not obvious is that if the election results in the reconfiguration of Austrian politics away from the far right, the center of gravity of the shift is not in the party headquarters. The shift is engineered in the historic coffee houses of Vienna.

Act of oppression or instrument of freedom?

From page A1

Act or the Philippine Independence was formally restored by the Americans on July 4, 1946. Finally the act was overtaken by martial law and the Constitution of 1973."

As time passed, I began to consider the paradox of martial law.

Paradox of the truth

It was a paradox of the truth. Our nation needed to progress, not only in economic terms but also in a way that all citizens could become aware of the origins of the state they had been born into, its current state of development, and the steps that had to be taken to carry its goals and ambitions further. Placing our faith in the eyes and hands of critical thinkers, politicians or others skilled in marshalling power in the hands of a few was not the act of a sovereign nation, especially a democratic one.

Martial law was a transition element from the 1935 Constitution to the 1973 Constitution. Marcos went further to say that "the new (1973) Constitution was drafted in recognition of emerging realities and problems which the framers of the 1935 Constitution had not foreseen. The political experience of the Filipino people revealed provisions of the old Charter to be hopelessly outmoded."

This old Charter had been ratified first by the US president before the Filipino people could ratify it in a plebiscite. On the one hand, we are grateful for the shepherding hand of the American government and people through this transition period, but on the other hand, we as a sovereign state had to decide how we wished to proceed from then on. The 1935 Constitution was no longer addressing the nation's needs and certain amendments created onerous restrictions on its very adaptability. Another morass of self-defeating regulations was causing a breakdown in the delivery of public service.

The Filipino people had to strengthen its claim to sovereignty by an overt and symbolic act. Martial law was that act. The 1973 Constitution should have endured a plebiscite before it could begin to address the pressing national problems, but the nation had developed into factional demagogues climbing over one another for control of the people. Martial law restored order among the chaos but finally dissolved all links to a Constitution that was colonial in origin, and paved the way for one that our people could call its own sovereign fundamental law.

Perhaps, it could be argued that it was only an argument of semantics and that the basic principles were already in place. The 1935 Constitution should have been given more time perhaps, but was it not more imperative to restore order in society and not permit what could have been a series of endlessly drawn-out revolutions? None of which would have brought the stability that the majority of people needed to carry out their daily lives.

Paradox of generosity

Martial law was thus a paradox of generosity because it held sway over the combative parties while enabling the people to determine for themselves, perhaps for the very first time and with both eyes open what their country had become, and to be able to decide for themselves who they were and where they wanted the nation to go. It gave the nation back to the people to whom it belonged.

The misplaced social order was restored, without which the citizens could not go about their daily lives peacefully and to be free to think and act selflessly for the future. Only then could a national plebiscite again be called that would ratify the 1973 Constitution. This new Charter would address the urgent need for unity in the nation's search for what Marcos referred to as "secular, humanistic and Filipinistic basis of cohesion."

What to some may rightly call a cruel cleansing act became I think for the benefit of the majority, a seminal restoration of national sovereignty, and therefore justice. Martial law was and is a paradox of the beautiful. For having awakened our senses, we perceived the world outside with a fresh grasp of the possible.

The fact remained that an outmoded Constitution could not be given any more time to plague the Filipino state. We could not afford to misplace our faith anymore. The more we dallied as a people, the more each of us became in our struggles, and thus the more we should have realized our senses of connection with each other.

Martial law gave us back our sovereignty because it gave the state back to the people. Therefore, it was a product of forethought and foresight. In fact, former Foreign Minister and Sen. Arturo Tolentino described the difficulties the nation faced when the Tydings-McDuffie Law required "that the government to be set up by the (1935) Constitution must be republican in form" and thus beggared the question of whether "we were free to adopt the kind or system of government that we would have wanted to have." Of course, he never implied or accused the framers of the Constitution as having a colonial mentality, only that a Constitution sourced from the American Congress was no longer relevant to the needs of the people it is meant to serve.

Justice Roberto Concepcion once wrote, "At any rate, the success or failure of a nation is not dependent exclusively—and at time, not even mainly upon laws. We cannot, we must not, overlook the importance, the transcendental role of the human element.

As a people, we are evolving through the way we seek to govern ourselves, to express ourselves, and to consider thoughts and consequences beyond ourselves. Throughout history, our nation has never kept silent when its ability to govern itself was compromised overtly as with colonial occupation, and covertly, when we forget the elements in our system that subvert the very principles of sovereignty our ancestors and we have a stake in.

While the myriad of revolutions that led up to the 1972 declaration of martial law were not unwarranted for the sake of free expression, these were a misdirection of where the country should have been headed.

My generation

My generation is at a crossroads, being an unusual burden of a sometimes joyful, sometimes sorrowful, and a sometimes glorious history. One thing is common, however: pain and sorrow will always be there, while joy and glory are only enjoyed sporadically. And in all too brief moment of peace that borders on a mere whisper of its possibility. Ours is a culture that celebrates the dream of a sovereign state, and we know only too well how fleeting those glimpses are because more often than not, we do forget.

Transition is an unseen and often unfelt process that we only grow aware of when we are awakened to the truth. And that truth is we are a sovereign nation, but we must prove to ourselves and to others that we rightly know how to harness the wealth of intellectual capabilities, emotional drives and moral tendencies that we have absorbed and developed through the centuries of our nation's existence.

Only then can anyone of us face others and ourselves with the conviction and distinction of the Filipino race. It is more than a skill level and more than the wealth that one has acquired that denote any one race's distinctiveness, as well as contribution to the development of humankind. We, as any people must, ascend to this role by first recognizing with pride that we are a sovereign people, and it will take more than a bland reassurance from others. Each of us has to believe that we belong to a sovereign nation, and that we have taken responsibility for our destiny.

Yoke of martial law

The roadmap to statehood has been made for us, but one that needs to be seen. Martial law was a definite turning point for our nation and Justice Concepcion captures our nation's development succinctly: "A great deal depends upon individuals to whom the reins of government are entrusted and upon the degree of cooperation given to them by the governed. A great deal depends upon the faith and goodwill that each may generate from the other."

The martial law yoke is an awesome responsibility because it reminds the people whom it serves of the duties and obligations that each man and woman owes to the strengthening of the state. Mine is not to argue the number of roads and bridges that were built during this period, but to recognize my role, even if it's just a minor one, toward the protection and growth of our nation.

If all of us would just do our part, even through a self-study of our history and allow with the passage of time for the events that have unfolded to bear fruit, and reserve until that time our judgments, we will have given a fair share toward bearing the weight of that yoke.

We may find that it is a burden worth carrying because we may just discover and embrace for ourselves the truth, beauty and generosity that sovereignty brings to a people. And this is the transition that we must undertake, each according to our individual gifts, but with a glad heart and an open mind.

For in time, all matters come to a full circle and reveal to the intended the intention behind any one thought or deed.

118 MILF ...

From page A1

fantry Battalion near the town of Lumbabayabao on Friday, the military said.

The rebels "are now undergoing tactical interrogation," a military report said.

The MILF is the country's main Moro rebel group fighting for an independent Islamic state in Mindanao.

It has signed a truce with Manila amid peace negotiations, but the military has accused the group of providing sanctuary to members of the smaller Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang, now the subject of a massive military operation.

Reports have also linked the MILF to radical Islamic militants allegedly plotting attacks in the Southeast Asian region, an allegation repeatedly denied by the 12,500-strong rebel group. *AFP*

ABAD

Abad's case: Resignation or promotion?

From page A1

terday to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's statement on Saturday that Abad had to quit in preparation for a higher position.

Malacañang announced Abad's resignation on Friday but took another day to explain why.

"He was always being scolded by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Why is he being promoted (now)?" Padilla wondered. He was referring to three previous public scoldings that Abad got from the President which, observers wagered, was why he resigned.

Padilla said he was inclined to believe the NFA chief quit for "personal reasons," as initially reported, because Malacañang still could not say what the "higher position" was.

In any case, it wouldn't be right for the administration to promote a bureaucrat who wasn't doing his job well, he insisted. "Malacañang should be transparent even on removals or transfers of its top officials."

In the meantime, he said, whoever would replace Abad should immediately look into the inconsistent price of *palay*, which has discouraged many farmers from planting rice.

He pointed out that the NFA's mandate was not only to make rice available to every family—at present through rice importation. "It should also strike a happy balance between keeping the rice supply (constant) and looking out for the farmers' interests by stabilizing the price of *palay*."

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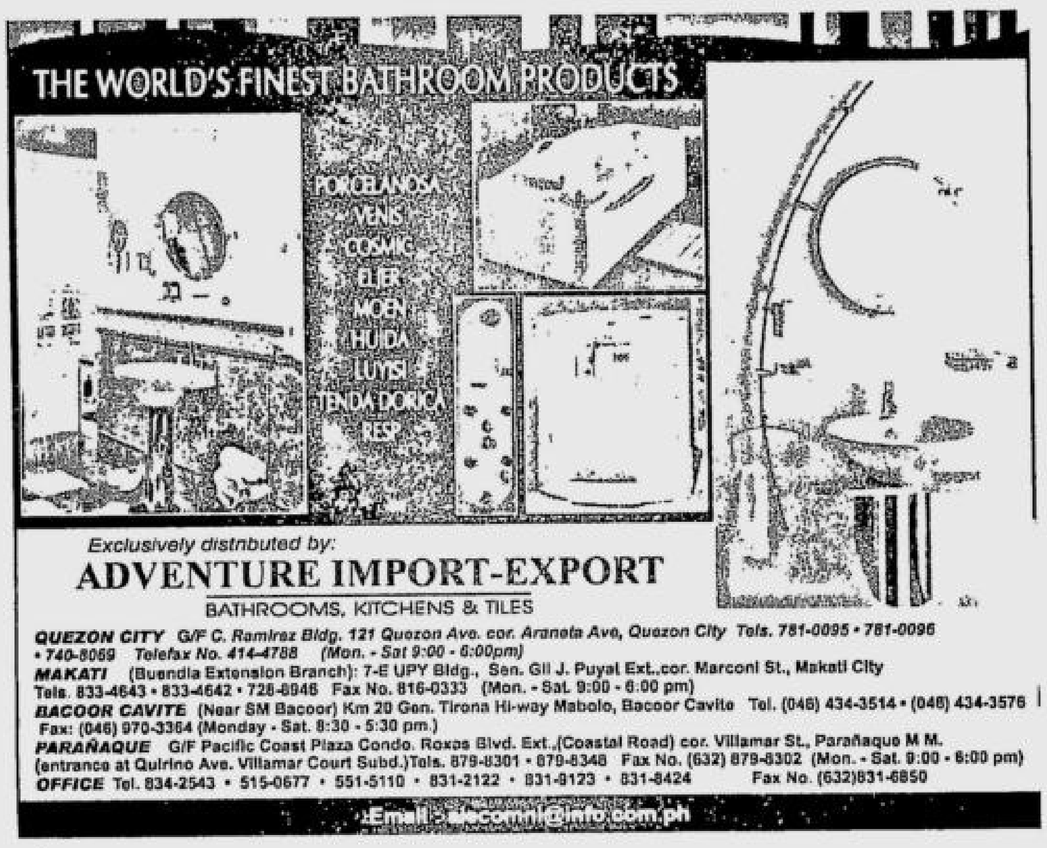
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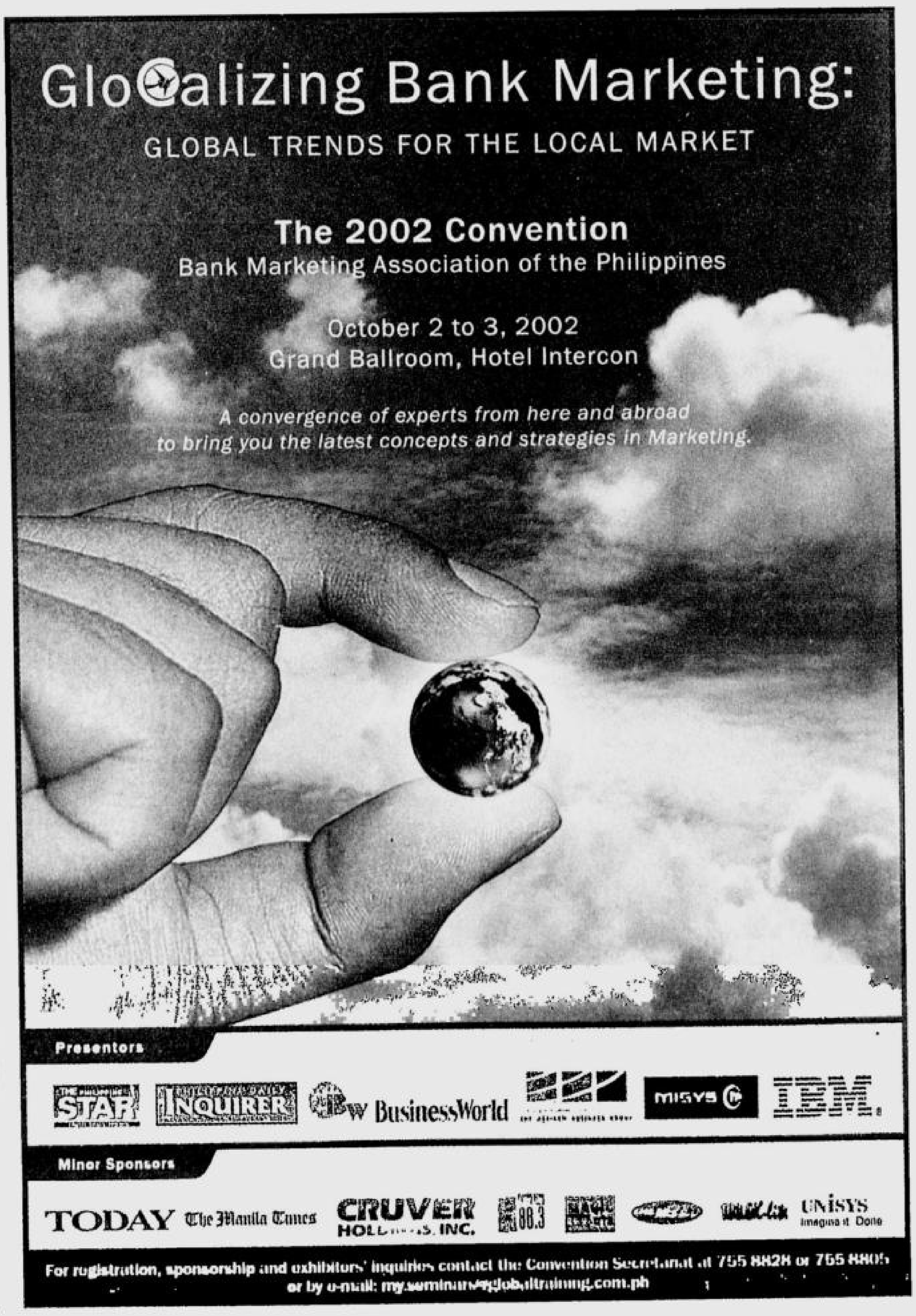
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SUPERLOTTO 6/49
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ATENEO'S George Chia (right) and UE's Rolly Masbang go after the loose ball. Chia hit the winning jumper as the Eagles nipped the Warriors, 72-70, to arrange a title clash with arch-rival La Salle.

VAL HANDUMON

DREAM SHOWDOWN

It's Ateneo vs La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

STEEL-NERVED George Chia made the biggest shot of his life, sinking the jumper which made the great difference as Ateneo edged University of the East, 72-70, last night and arranged a dream showdown with rival La Salle for the UAAP basketball crown at the Araneta Coliseum.

The so-called Big Dome Thriller between two hungry teams aiming to challenge La Salle's supremacy lived up to expectations but in the end it was Chia, a former Intramurals hero, who shone brightest.

With the score tied at 70-70, UE playmaker Paul Artadi hastened the Warriors' downfall when he lost the ball while making an ill-timed drive to the basket, leaving the 6-foot-1 Chia and his fellow Eagles 7.8 seconds to complete their stunning comeback.

As the jampacked crowd screamed in delight, LA Tenorio raced downcourt and attacked the baseline, only to find himself well covered by the bigger James Yap. The 5-foot-7 Tenorio lobbed a pass to Chia, who shook off Ronald Tubid and then unleashed the shot off the outstretched arm of Olan Omiping.

"It was a miracle," said a relieved Ateneo coach Joel Banal, who sank to his knees as Chia's shot went in. "But we still have to hurdle an opponent which connotes excellence to this league."

Banal was referring to early finalist La Salle, which is seeking its fifth straight title. Game One of the Ateneo-La Salle best-of-three title series, a repeat of last year's blockbuster finals, is set at 4 p.m. on Thursday at the Big Dome.

After sizzling in Ateneo's annual Intramurals, Chia hardly made an impact last year under former coach Joe Lipa. He rode the bench and played for three games, scoring a grand total of 10 points. Banal, however, had a different idea as he gave Chia the needed exposure this season.

To make it to the finals, the Eagles, who now won their last seven games, needed to overcome a shaky first round campaign and an injury to Tenorio.

Tenorio came back last Thursday as the Eagles downed the Warriors, 84-78, which forced the decider.

For UE, the defeat was painful to accept. The Warriors, getting the points from Tubid, Artadi and the rejuvenated Yap, nursed a 68-65 lead with 1:58 remaining, only to fall apart when the Eagles made one final surge.

Tubid, who led UE's attack with 22 points, 13 from the free throw lane, was called for a technical foul for delaying the game in the ensuing play.

Larry Fonacier calmly sank the technical gift shot, 66-68, and Rich Alvarez tied the ballgame with two more free throws off Philip Butel's foul, 68-68.

But it wasn't the end for the Warriors, who were aiming to make it the finals for the first time since losing to La Salle in 1990. Yap, a flop in the first encounter, cooly gave the lead back to UE, 70-68, with two penalties, 50 seconds left. But just as the UE bench and its supporters were celebrating, Chia, whose shot was earlier blocked, pumped a 10-footer from the very same spot where he would convert the all-important jumper.

Earlier, Ateneo and University of the Philippines barged into the finals of the junior division by downing their respective foes in the Final Four. The Eaglets nipped the Adamson Baby Falcons, 61-59, in overtime, while the Preps leaned on the sterling plays of Marvin Cruz and Chris Villanueva to beat the UST Tiger Cubs, 83-70.

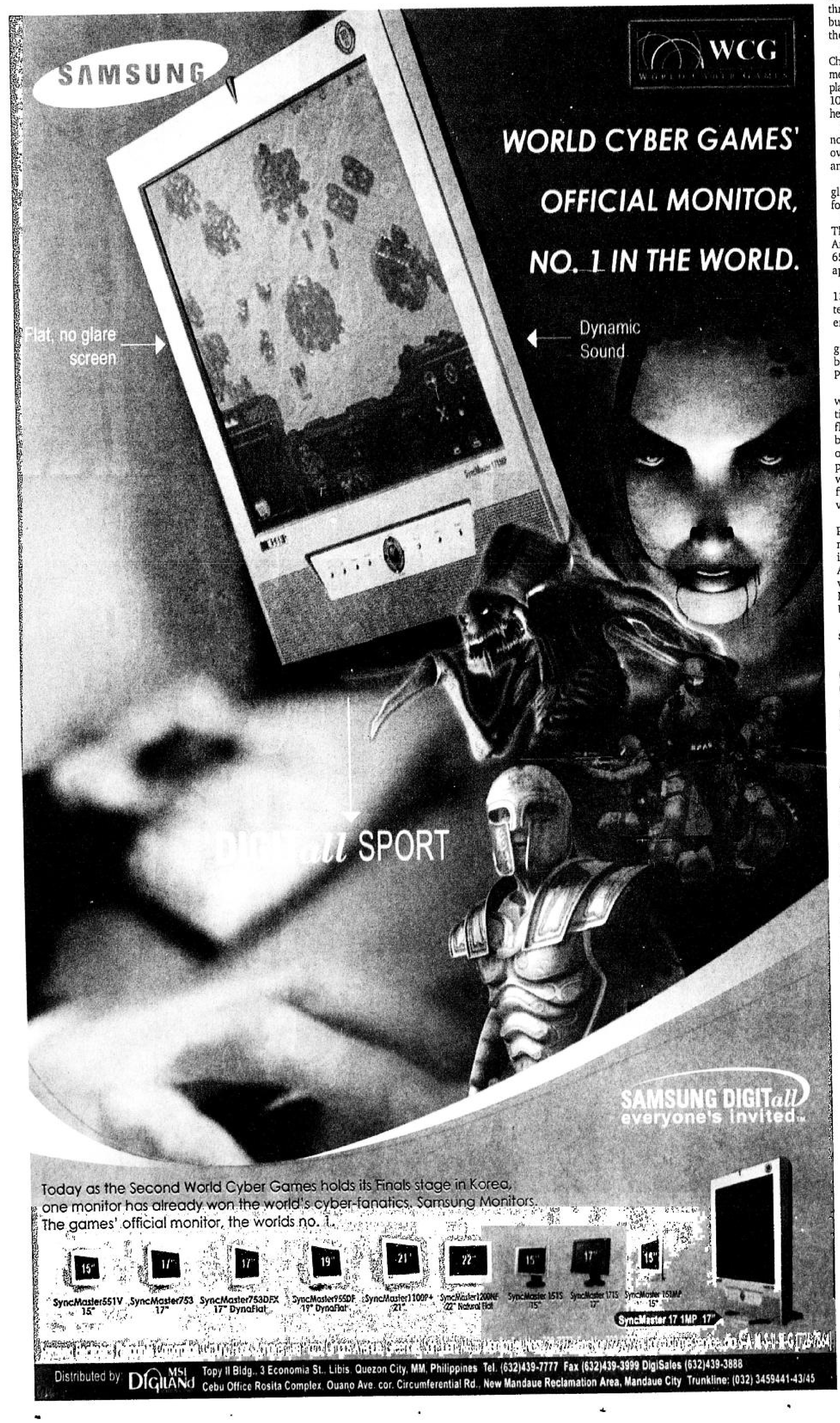
UP made it to the finals for the first time since 1979.

Scores:

ATENEO 72—Villanueva 19, Fonacier 16, Chia 11, Gonzales 8, Alvarez 6, Quimpo 6, Tenorio 3, Cruz 3, Elmido 2.

UE 70—Tubid 22, Yap 18, Artadi 14, Estrada 6, Omiping 4, Tan 3, Masbang 3, Canaleta 0, Butel 0, Hubalde 0, Alminario 0.

Quarters: 17-13, 32-29, 56-54, 72-70.



Today as the Second World Cyber Games holds its Finals stage in Korea, one monitor has already won the world's cyber-fanatics, Samsung Monitors. The games' official monitor, the worlds no. 1.

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Asiad coverage starts Sept. 29

THE NATIONAL Broadcasting Network starts its exclusive coverage of the Busan Asian Games on Sept. 29.

NBN chair Mia Concio yesterday said that with the lavish preparation for the coverage of the quadrennial meet from the opening ceremonies on Sept. 29 to its closing on Oct. 14, it is envisioned to become the most comprehensive in Philippine broadcasting history.

Quinito Henson and Chiqui Roa will anchor the coverage from the NBN studio which will run for an average of 10 hours a day.

According to Concio, satellite studios will also be in place at the Glorietta, Megamall, Robinsons Galleria and the Korean Embassy.

A day before the formal opening on Sept. 29, NBN will air live via satellite the RP basketball team's opening match against the United Arab Emirates.

Rose of Victory wins stakes race

ROSE of Victory roared to her third straight win by ruling the Early Hours Stakes races yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

The 4-year-old daughter of Honour and Glory and Monterey Belle ruled the 1,500-meter race for imported fillies and mares by four lengths under the guidance of star jockey Dominador "Rapid Fire" Borbe Jr.

Owned by former Philracom commissioner Francisco "Koko" Cayco and trained by Nestor Manalang, Rose of Victory bagged P300,000 in notching her first major win. She clocked a fast 1:34.4. *EV*

Seigle's injury taints RP victory over Qatar

GAME TODAY *(Philsports)*
7 p.m.—RP vs Qatar

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE basketball team suffered a serious blow after swingman Danny Seigle was feared to have torn his left achilles heel during the RP-Qatar tune-up game last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

PBA resident physician Benedicto Salud said Seigle's injury may require surgery that would virtually put the 6-foot-5 San Miguel Beer superstar out of commission in the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea for good.

"This is the first time I felt not good after winning a game. If Danny must be operated on, there's no way he could play for us in the Asian Games," said RP coach Jong Uichico after the Nationals' 78-61 victory over the Qataris.

Seigle, a vital cog on the country's gold-medal quest in the forthcoming Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, hurt his heel after a bad fall early in the third quarter.

"It's very unfortunate but we brace ourselves for that eventuality," said Uichico, who will activate two cagers from the reserve roster after the younger Seigle joined his brother, Andy, in the injury list.

Andy Seigle suffered from back spasms even before the RP-Qatar match and may also miss the Asiad.

Uichico said he would meet with the coaching staff and decide who among reserves Chris Jackson, Mick Pennisi and Boyet Fernandez would replace the Seigle brothers.

Seigle, who just recovered from a right hamstring injury, was immediately brought to the St. Luke's Medical Center after Dr. Salud's prognosis.

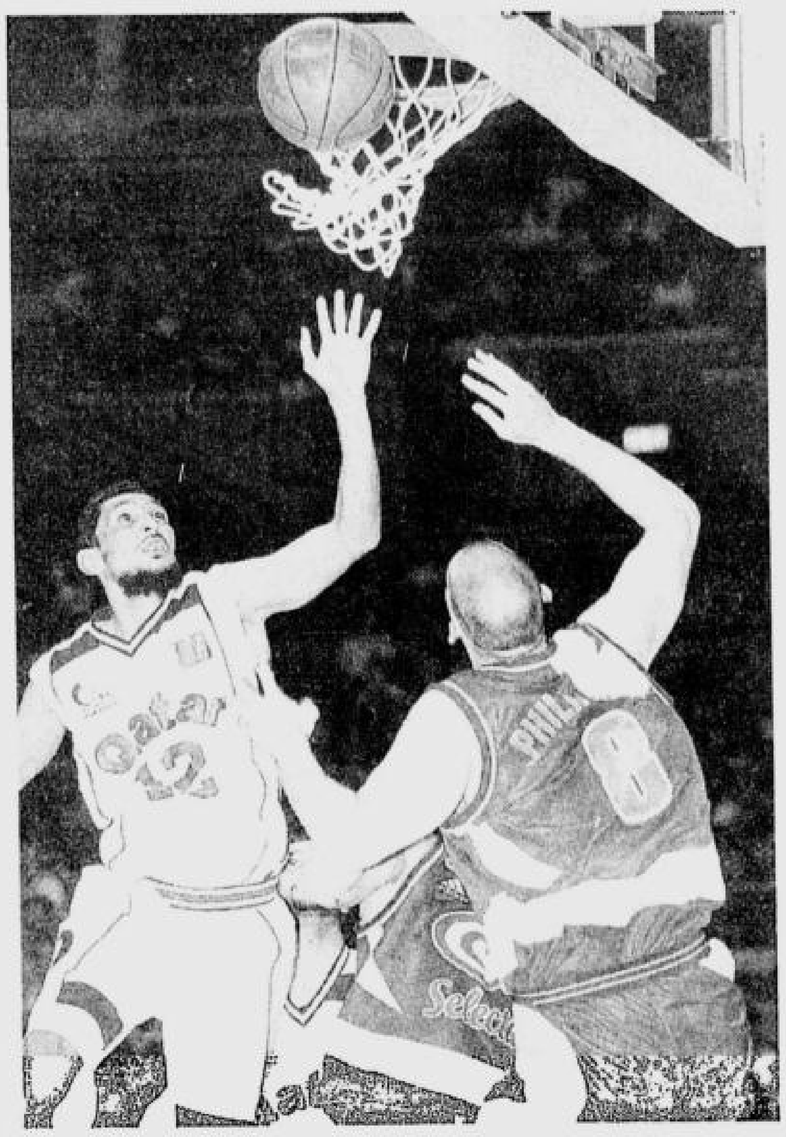
Dr. Raul Canlas of SLMC is expected to perform the operation on Seigle today.

Salud feared that Seigle could have suffered the same fate of Bong Alvarez, who torn his achilles heel during the third conference of the 1990 season and was sidelined for a year.

John-O vs Hapee

JOHN-O routed Casino Rubbing Alcohol, 81-68, while Hapee Toothpaste downed Blu All-Purpose, 95-83, yesterday to arrange a final showdown in the PBL-CBF Dual Meet at the Pasig Sports Center.

Today's championship is scheduled at 4 p.m. after the 2 p.m. duel for third place between Casino and Blu.



SEIGLE (8) battles Qatar's Husam Ismael for the rebound.

VAL HANDUMON

SPORTSWATCH

Serena snares Cup

TOKYO—World No. 1 Serena Williams bounced back from a shaky start Sunday to win the $585,000 Toyota Princess Cup tennis tournament. Williams, the tournament's top seed, dropped the opening set at Ariake Colosseum but came back for a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over World No. 8 Kim Clijsters of Belgium. "I feel great," said Williams. "It was a great final and I don't think the tennis could have been any better than it was today." Williams has now won seven titles in 2002. *AP*

KGB meet Sept. 26

ROYAL Northwoods Golf and Country Club in San Rafael, Bulacan will host this month's tournament of the Kapisanan ng mga Golfers sa Brodkast on Sept. 26. Broadcast golfers will be vying for the overall monthly championship as well as KGB signature trophies in Class A, B, C and the Ladies and Guest divisions. The 18-hole medal play competition is supported by PCSO and Photokina Marketing. Registration starts promptly at 6:30 a.m. with the first flight teeing off at 6:45 a.m.

Colin's career ends

MADRID, Spain—It wasn't the end Colin Jackson wanted to his illustrious outdoor career. The world record-holder in the 110-meter hurdles clipped the first hurdle, knocked over the third and then veered out of his lane and barreled through the fourth. He was lucky to stay on his feet. Jackson completed the race about 10 seconds off the pace in 22.16 seconds only to be disqualified for intentionally knocking over a hurdle in the most embarrassing race of his life. Cuban Olympic champion Anier Garcia won in 13.10 seconds. *AP*

Rossi champ again

RIO DE JANEIRO—Italy's Valentino Rossi was crowned world motorcycling champion for the second successive season when he rode his Honda to victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix here on Sunday. Rossi got the better of the rainy conditions to finish ahead of pole sitter and fellow Italian Max Biaggi, on a Yamaha, and America's Kenny Roberts on a Suzuki to clinch his 10th MotoGP win of the season. The Italian, who won the 500cc category last year to add to the 125cc title he won in 1997 and the 250cc championship he secured in 1999, made sure of his 2002 crown with four rounds of the series still left to run. *AFP*

Grosjean sparkles as France reaches final

By Michael McDonough
AP Writer

PARIS—Sebastien Grosjean overcame an injured ankle to beat Andy Roddick at Roland Garros on Sunday and send defending champion France into its second straight Davis Cup final, where it will face Russia.

Grosjean sealed the 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory at the home of the French Open when Roddick sent his last forehand long, giving France its third win in the best-of-five tie. James Blake then defeated Arnaud Clement, 6-4, 6-3 in 49 minutes, and France won 3-2 overall.

The diminutive Grosjean was lifted in the air by his Davis Cup teammates as French fans roared with delight, while the US team rallied around Roddick, consoling him with pats on the back.

"I had an enormous desire to win," said Grosjean, whose team now has an unbroken 8-0 record in Davis Cup ties.

"He just stayed there mentally the whole time," Roddick said of his opponent. "I stuck with my game plan. I just didn't execute it well enough."

Roddick's power game was sapped by a painful lower back, for which he received treatment several times during the match.

"It's nothing, it's just sore and stiff, and felt really fatigued," the 20-year-old said. "I don't know what caused it."

Roddick fired only six aces, compared to 20 against Clement on Friday, and 37 against Michael Chang in their second-round match at last year's French Open.

A very capable support act

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

HARD-FIGHTING Batang Red Bull is the emerging team of the millennium.

Overcoming tremendous odds since joining the league two years ago, it is now set to join the elite club of multi-champions in the Philippine Basketball Association after retaining the PBA Commissioner's Cup title in grand style last Friday, beating Talk N Text, 67-60, and ending a nail-biting series, 4-3, at the overflowing Araneta Coliseum.

With its second straight championship (and a respectable third place finish in the 2000 Governors' Cup) in only eight conference appearances, coach Yeng Guiao's Thunder thus earned a piece of league history together with the likes of San Miguel Beer and Alaska Milk and, in an earlier era, the great Crispa and Toyota. But, for all that, it was an up and down campaign for the Photokina franchise owned by much respected George Chua.

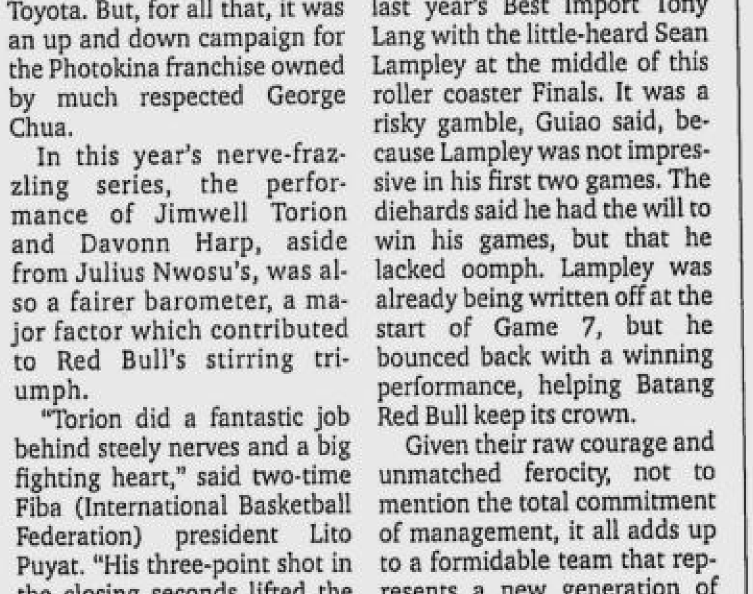
In this year's nerve-frazzling series, the performance of Jimwell Torion and Davonn Harp, aside from Julius Nwosu's, was also a fairer barometer, a major factor which contributed to Red Bull's stirring triumph.

"Torion did a fantastic job behind steely nerves and a big fighting heart," said two-time Fiba (International Basketball Federation) president Lito Puyat. "His three-point shot in the closing seconds lifted the spirit of the team while Harp handcuffed Jerald Honeycutt all night long, effectively slowing down coach Bill Bayno's offensive artillery."

"*Sobra sobrang hirap*," said the 42-year-old Guiao of the best-of-seven series. "Seven games of hell. But, I take my hat off to the boys who played their hearts out despite all the difficulties."

Now in the company of Jong Uichico, the late Ed Ocampo and Sen. Robert Jaworski as coaches who won four PBA titles each, Yeng Guiao had to overcome off-court problems in this series when he replaced last year's Best Import Tony Lang with the little-heard Sean Lampley at the middle of this roller coaster Finals. It was a risky gamble, Guiao said, because Lampley was not impressive in his first two games. The diehards said he had the will to win his games, but that he lacked oomph. Lampley was already being written off at the start of Game 7, but he bounced back with a winning performance, helping Batang Red Bull keep its crown.

Given their raw courage and unmatched ferocity, not to mention the total commitment of management, it all adds up to a formidable team that represents a new generation of clean, hard-fighting and determined players.



ACE BIKER
Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering coasts to victory in the 002 Shell Advance Super Bike Championships recently at the atangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. The multi-awarded ider from Marikina virtually wrapped up the title after dominating e rain-marred ninth round to pull away in the overall standings ly two rounds remaining.

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Tiger storms ahead by 5

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

THOMASTOWN, Ireland—Despite no bogeys over the first 54 holes and his largest lead in two years, Tiger Woods figures he needs one more round of good golf to capture the American Express Championship.

Everyone else might need a lot more than that.

"It will take something in the 50s to catch him," Jerry Kelly said after spending Saturday watching Woods put on another clinic at Mount Juliet.

Woods didn't hit the ball as crisply as he did the first two days, but he still produced a nonchalant round of 5-under 67 on a stunningly gorgeous afternoon in Ireland.

Birdies on the final two holes, the last one a 5-iron that stopped 4 feet from the cup, left Woods at 19-under 197 and gave him a five-stroke lead over a half-dozen players, none of whom sounded overly optimistic about their chances.

"Tiger is playing awfully well," Steve Lowery said. "I think I'll need the round of my life to beat him."

Scott McCarron set a course record with an 8-under 64. He was at 202 and will be paired with Woods in the final group Sunday. They also played Mount Juliet together, along with Mark O'Meara, the week before the British Open in July.

Woods beat him that day, although McCarron had an excuse. He celebrated his 37th birthday the previous day, and wasn't exactly in fighting form.

"It was a tough round for him," Woods recalled with a smile.

Lowery, who has made only one bogey this week, didn't make enough birdies Saturday and wound up with a 69. Also in the group at 14-under 202 were Vijay Singh (66), Retief Goosen (68), Kelly (70) and David Toms (69).

What will it take?

"Something lower than Scott McCarron's 64," Toms said. "I think I could shoot something lower, post it and see what happens." *AP*

Europe paces US

EDINA, Minnesota—Europe swept the afternoon's fourball competition to rally back from a morning setback and establish a 9-7 lead over the US at the Solheim Cup on Saturday.

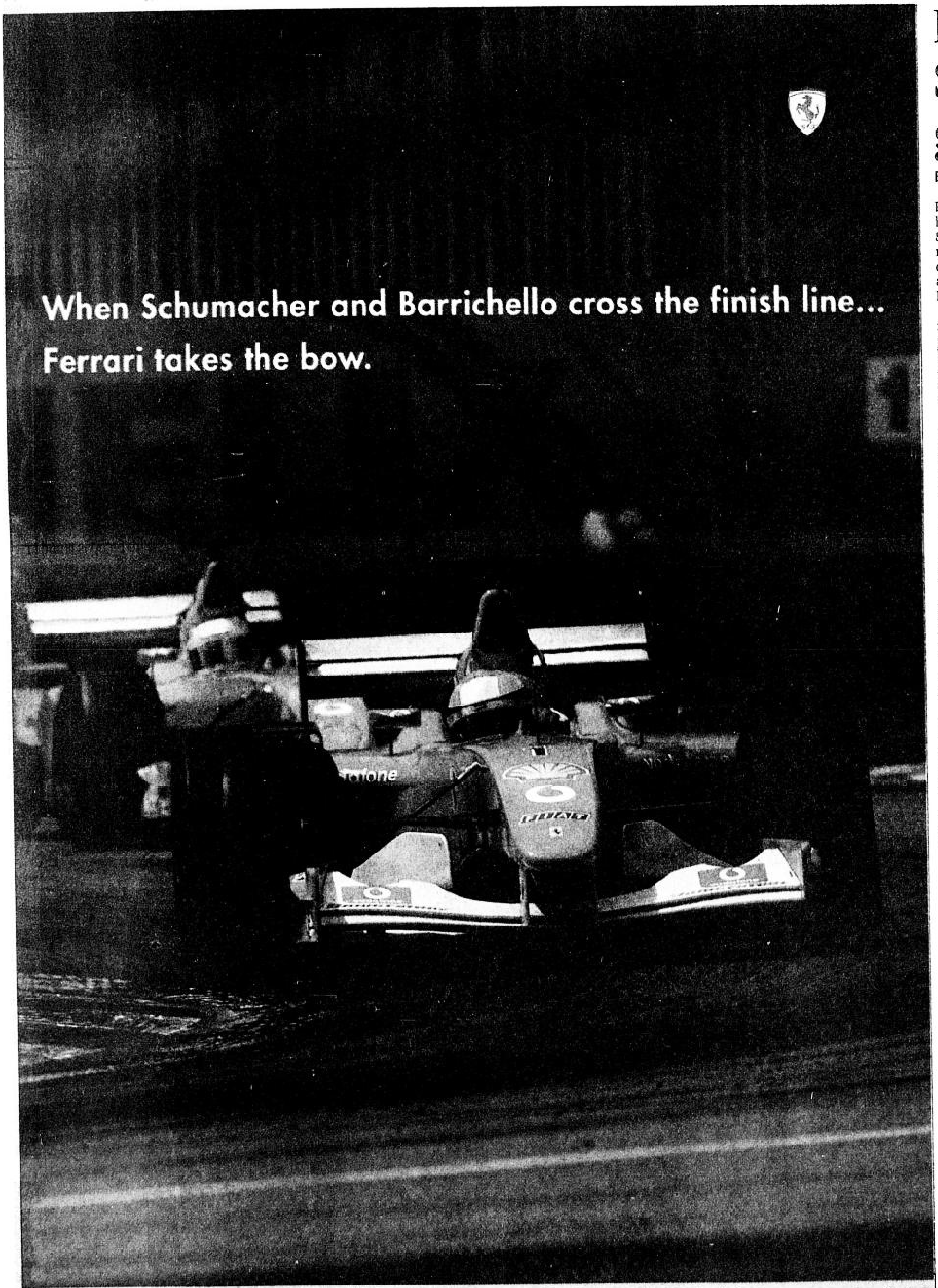
After losing three of the four foursomes matches in the morning, the Europeans, lead by world number one Annika Sorenstam and the seemingly unbeatable Carin Koch fought back to win all four of the afternoon's matches. *Reuters*

WOODS hits his approach on the 16th. AP

SportsTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA Bank of Montreal Canadian Women's Open at 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Star Sports
PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Star Sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The Art of the Quarterback at 1:30 p.m. on ESPN
NFL - Cincinnati Bengals vs Atlanta Falcons at 2 p.m. on ESPN
BASEBALL: Sunday Night Baseball at 8 a.m. on ESPN
MLB Pennant Series at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on ESPN



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Forest Hills, Southwoods gain q'finals

By Jong Arcano

PLAYING as if the championship was on the line, all four pairings fielded by Manila Southwoods got the job done in pulsating matches that reached the last hole to bring down Wack Wack, 3.5-.5, over the weekend and secure its seat in the quarterfinals of the Federation Golf League.

Jerome Delariarte, in his final outing before he flies to Busan for the Asian Games, led partner Raffy Campos to a 1 up victory in best ball and Southwoods also grabbed big wins in aggregate (Butch Brodett-Ben Borja) and scramble (Lito Abiera-Joey San Juan) and a draw in high-low (Marty Ilagan-Seve Liao).

Earning a bonus point, Southwoods suddenly became a contender for one of the automatic slots in the semifinals with 11 points. Wack Wack's qualifying chances will now depend on the results of the final eliminations playdate this coming weekend.

Tommy Manotoc did not play his best ball slot and it told heavily on Wack Wack's bid for a crucial win.

"It could have really gone either way. We got the needed breaks in the final hole," said Jeric Hechanova of Southwoods.

Forest Hills made it a three-cornered battle for the two semis berths after the defending champion foiled the upset bid of unpredictable Manila Golf with a 3-1 decision and early qualifier Mimosa lost to Alabang.

Mimosa was the first to make it to the quarters with 13 points but Forest Hills (12) and Southwoods are now not too far behind.

Valley figured in a close tie with Northwoods and both teams are now just within a point of the second running Wack Wack in Group II. Malarayat, meanwhile, remained in the running in Group I after a 4-0 annihilation of Orchard.

A sudden downpour forced the postponement of Canlubang's crucial duel with also-ran Highlands with the former trying to stay within sight of Manila Golf.

Sta. Lucia Tour unfolds Oct. 3

GOLFERS from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao mix it up in an island-hopping series designed to foster goodwill and camaraderie when the third edition of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour blasts off in Davao early next month.

The Tour kicks off on Oct. 3-5 at the Rancho Palos Verdes in Mandug/Indangan, Davao, one of the five host venues that also include the Alta Vista in Cebu for the Visayas leg and Orchard and Eagle Ridge as co-hosts for the Luzon swing.

In addition to the chase for the Sta. Lucia Cup, there's another side-event for the participating members to look forward when the Tour wraps up in December with TaylorMade putting up no less than P300,000 worth of prizes in a shootout at the Royale Tagaytay.

TaylorMade is coming in as the new major backer of the series exclusive for members of major clubs operating under the Sta. Lucia banner. Philippine Airlines is the official airline, Yamaha and SC Kymco Pilipinas Inc. as hole-in-one prize providers and Canon as minor sponsor.

Hyatt Regency Manila, Cebu Plaza and The Marco Polo are the partner hotels.

Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob, co-chair of the organizing committee, recently received from tournament director Andy Dumlao the final roster of the clubs participating with all 240 slots filled up and several teams waiting to be accommodated.

It will be the biggest roster in three years, attesting to the growing interest given to the event where participation is substantially subsidized by Sta. Lucia Realty.

"We're also glad to hear that a lot of players are bringing along family members to their trips. We've envisioned this series to be all about family affair not just for the Sta. Lucia clubs for families of members as well," said Santos.

Gob, for his part, said that the promotion of domestic tourism is one of the targets of the series and even foreign expatriates have been involved in it.

High hopes for Sokors in Busan

By Charles Whelan
AFP Sportswriter

BUSAN, South Korea—South Korean sporting hopes are high for the Sept. 29–Oct. 14 Asian Games, the biggest in history with the added political twist of North Korea's participation.

South Korean organizers boast that the Games will bring together all 43 members of the Olympic Council of Asia for the first time and attract more athletes and officials here than any previous Asiads.

South Korean sporting ambitions focus on securing second spot in the medals table behind behemoth China and ahead of perennial rival Japan.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

Just three months after the 2002 World Cup, Busan officials said they had a hard time sparking domestic interest in the Asiad, and have had problems raising funds and completing work projects.

That changed with North Korea's dramatic announcement last month to send a team of hundreds of athletes and officials, and a boatload of supporters, to the event.

Though the North has its sporting strengths, notably in the shooting events, its presence will not divert the single-minded focus of southern competitors on China and Japan.

South Korea is sending a delegation of more than 1,000 athletes and officials to Busan, its biggest ever Asian Games entry.

Forum tomorrow

THE COUNTRY'S top sports officials share their Asian Games thoughts for the last time as they grace tomorrow's 10:30 a.m. session of the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn hotel prior to their departure to Busan, South Korea within the week.

Heading the guest list are Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit and Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Jun Bernardino.

Yanks clinch title

DETROIT—Andy Pettitte pitched seven strong innings and Mariano Rivera returned from the disabled list as the New York Yankees clinched their fifth straight AL East title with a 3-2 win Saturday over the Detroit Tigers. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Pettitte (12-5) is the first pitcher since 1961 to get at least 12 victories in each of his first eight seasons. *AP*

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Racing at MJC

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

READER Ed Banes of Parañaque City sent a very interesting letter expressing his views about racing at the Manila Jockey Club. Here's the continuation:

1. Post time is always late (No effort on their (officials) part to improve and this system must change).

2. Outdated tote board (They still use the same old manual number of posting winners).

3. The jockeys are still mandated to salute the stewards during the parade of horses (This is outdated and a dictatorial rule).

4. The handicapping of horses is terribly one sided (More than 80% of the time, there is always one horse whose sales is maybe, five to 10 times more then the next favorite, and when that horse will run, he is either alone by himself leading by many lengths, or he comes in from behind and opens up a huge lead while you can take a nap before the next horse reaches the finish line. Occasionally the second favorite will grind it out with the outstanding one, while the rest of the field is either just going through the motion. It's like watching two horses out of many doing one on one. This system must definitely change too if they want more revenues and happy "kareristas")

5. The stewards suspend horses that errantly run or horses that make other horses lose (But they don't suspend the jockey riding the errant horse. This applies to PRC, too).

6. There are "Race track announcers" who sometimes shout at the top of their voice, get to excited most of the time that they sometimes either call the horse by mistake, or just do not call all the horses up to at least the 5/8 post. Of course the other announcers at PRC do it too, there's really plenty of room to improve anyway (Please . . . the era of Tony Trinidad is gone. Let's train some more so we can please the public)

I do not claim to be an expert on the above statements, but one does not have to be a "Rocket Scientist" to know that there's something wrong with the horseracing in the Philippines. The quality of horse jockeys has immensely improved. The horses are faster and better bred. It appears that the trainers have also improved. But the two clubs in spite of some of their improvement in the area of off-track betting, telebeting, five-day racing, and the likes, have still a long way to go in improving the quality of racing to be par at least with the whole of Asia if not the world.

Sincerely,
Ed Banes
BF Homes, Parañaque

***

One Winner can also be reached through *evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph* and *sports@inquirer.com.ph*

Mandaluyong 5-stag derby slated Sept. 24

A THREE-way fight looms among Metro Manila, Pampanga and Negros Occidental cockers when the much-awaited "Concierto Sa Mandaluyong 5-Stag Derby" gets under way at the Mandaluyong Coliseum on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Pagcor, Casino Filipino-Parañaque and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drugs are the sponsors.

The one-day event will be hosted by Jimmy Mariquit of Angeles City and veteran derbyist Otic Geroso of Negros Occidental.

Submission of weights is today, Monday, Sept. 23, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

On Thursday, Sept. 26 is another one-day, 5-stag event with Blandy Tolentino and Manny as co-hosts.

Meanwhile, four cockers shared the crown of last week's "2nd Ucap Arnis Master 7-Stag Derby."

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Herman Suizo clocked 1:14:21 to defend his title in the 15th Milo Marathon in Iloilo City. Also today in 1993, San Sebastian beat Letran, 110-76, to sweep the NCAA seniors basketball championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

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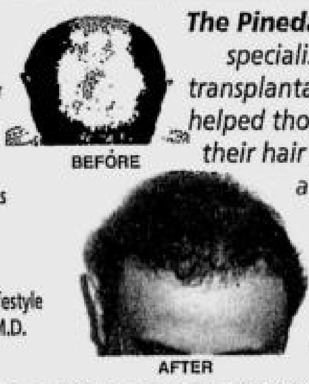

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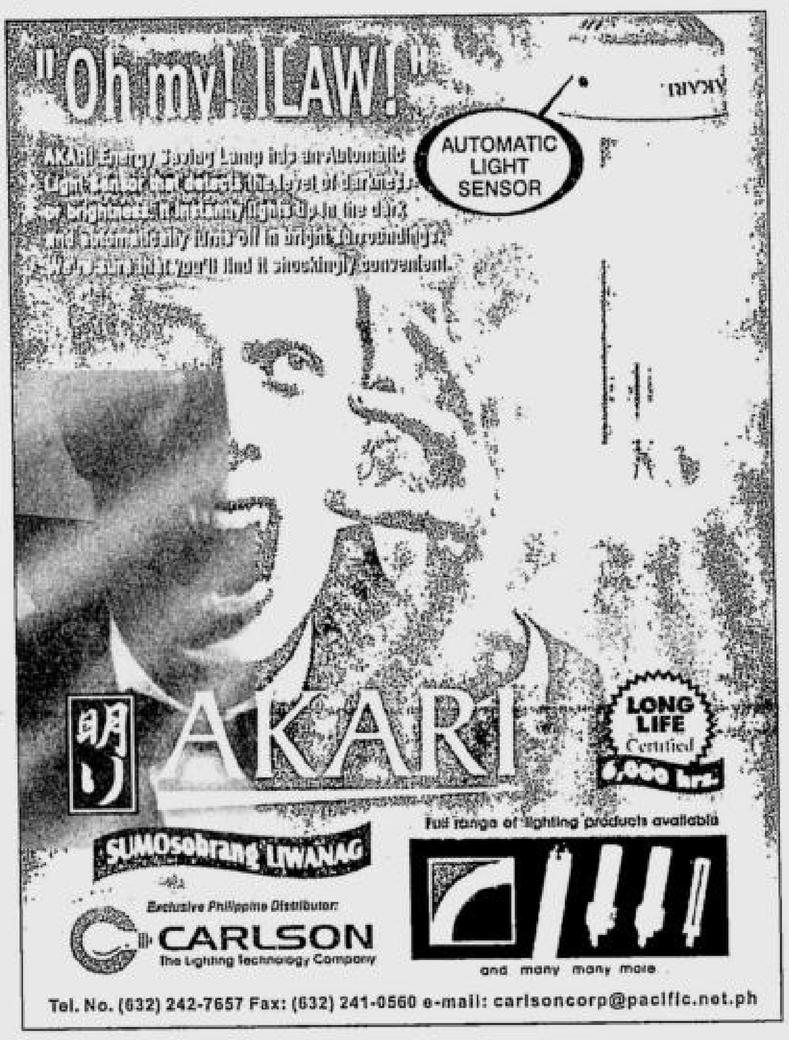

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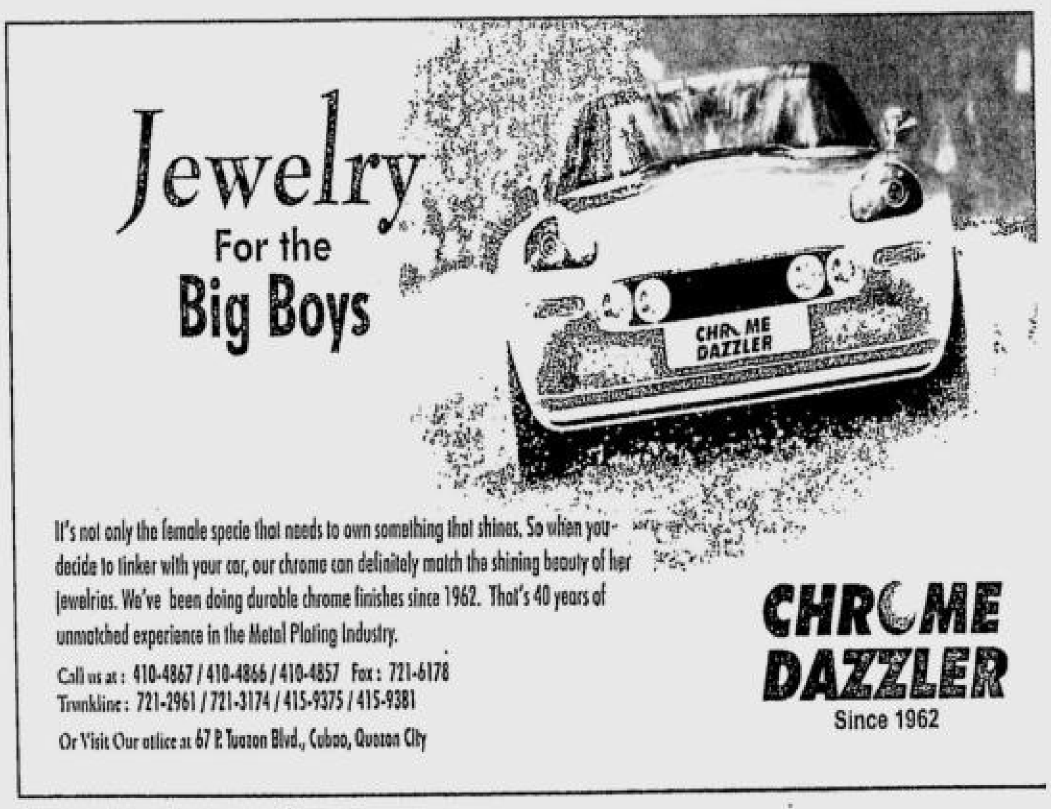

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NCA tilt resumes

EXCITING fights await cockfighting fans today (Monday) and Wednesday when champions from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and their counterparts from Metro Manila compete for fame and fortune in the blockbuster NCA 7-Stag Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

Three-stag qualifying matches are billed this afternoon, marking the resumption of "Stagwars" 2002 hosted by Gov. Ito Ynares and the Firefly Group.

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■ Barangay leaders protest move vs Jimenez /A26

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

■ BARE EYE: It's either laugh or cry for RP basketball squad /A26

Medel convicted in '69

Nida suspect found guilty of abducting cousin

By Christian V. Esguerra

PHILIP Medel Jr., a key suspect in the Nida Blanca murder case, was convicted of kidnapping in Cebu City, according to records from the Bureau of Corrections obtained by the INQUIRER.

A Court of First Instance in Cebu City found Medel guilty of abducting his 16-year-old second cousin on Dec. 1, 1969, the records showed.

In his 29-page decision, Judge Antonio Cinco sentenced Medel, then 22, to imprisonment of six years to 14 years .

"This only proves that Medel indeed has a very shadowy background, a very questionable credibility," said the source who gave the INQUIRER copies of Medel's prison records.

Medel, whose real name is Pedro P. Medel Jr., is facing criminal charges for the brutal killing of actress Nida Blanca allegedly on orders of Blanca's American husband, Rod Lauren Strunk.

Prison documents showed that Medel spent at least four years in a Cebu jail and later at the Davao Prison and Penal Farm before he was

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MEDEL detained at the National Bureau of Investigation in July.

ERIK ARAZAS

Stay in your homes and die, MMDA warns squatters

By Christian V. Esguerra

SQUATTERS who refuse to leave their shanties that are built near creeks in Metro Manila are in danger of being drowned when the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) starts cleaning its 15 pumping stations as part of its flood-control program.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna yesterday warned settlers of the danger and urged them to immediately leave their shanties to avoid being swept away by murky floodwater.

"Their lives are in danger so they should leave as soon as possible," Lacuna told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"In the first place, they have no business staying near creeks and other waterways," he added.

Lacuna said the MMDA would clean up garbage-filled creeks by opening the gates of pumping stations to allow water from the Pasig River to flow in.

Once the garbage has floated, the water would then be flushed out of the creeks, he said.

"The idea is to regularly clean up the water in creeks so we don't have to suffer all that stench," he said.

The operation will affect thousands of squatters living near pumping stations in Makati, Pasay, and Manila, particularly in Quiapo and Tondo.

The operation might trigger another tough opposition from urban poor groups, which have locked horned with MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando because of what they described as his inhuman policies.

Informal settlers, especially those living near the Pasig River, have been refusing to leave their homes until the government has provided them with appropriate relocation sites.

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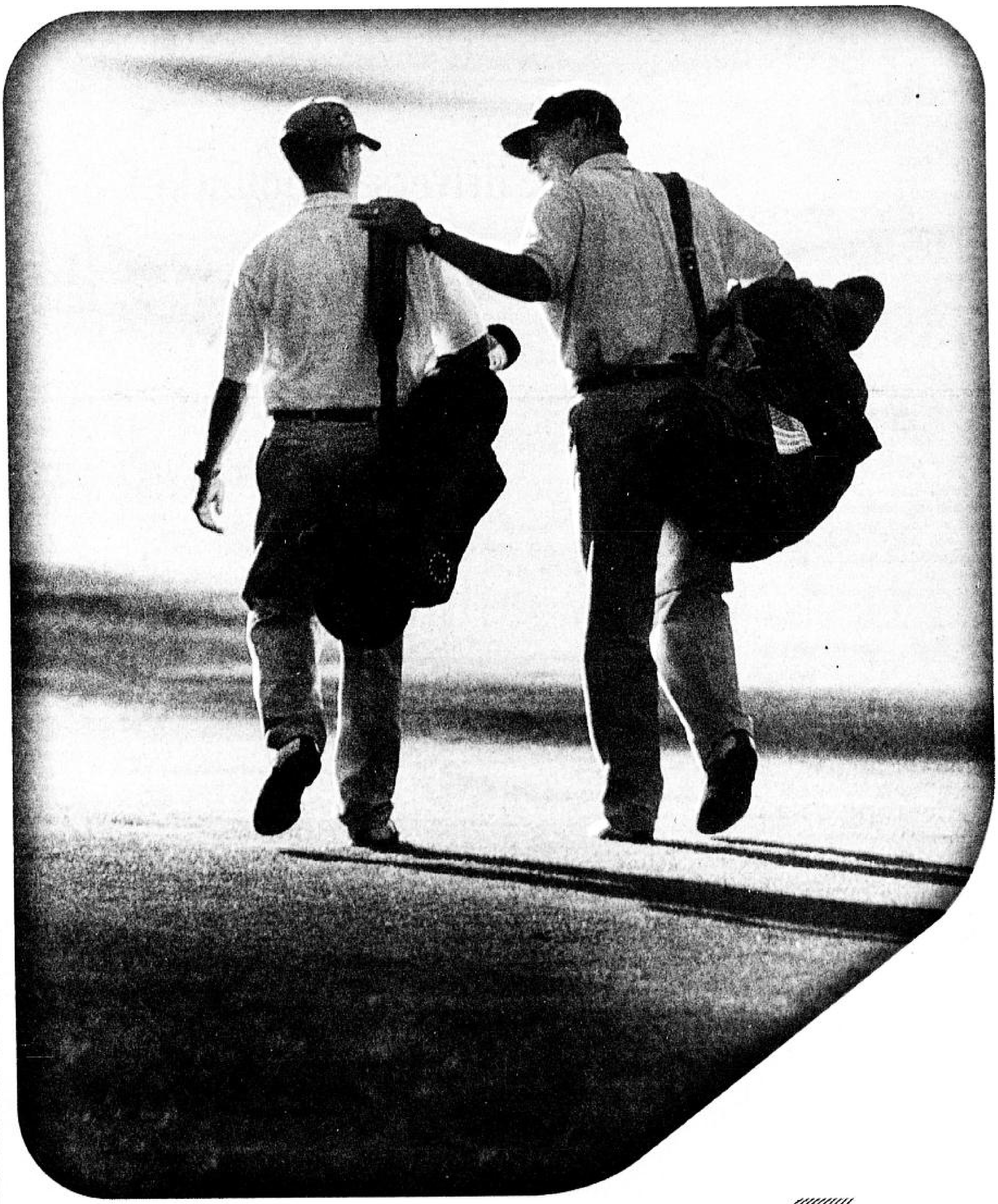

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Barangay leaders protest move vs Jimenez

FOLLOWERS of Rep. Mark Jimenez (Independent) in the 6th district of Manila are threatening to engage in mass actions to protest what they described as a concerted operation to remove the neophyte congressman from office.

Barangay officials yesterday said in a statement they are set to appeal to Congress to protect the right of their district to be represented in the House of Representatives by their duly elected congressman, Jimenez.

Barangay Chairs Francisco Blanco, Josephat Ramos, Paula Paug, and Ruben Allegrado said in the statement that there was a ground swell of support for Jimenez among their constituents in the district as the congressman faces a pending Department of Justice motion in the Supreme Court to revoke his right to bail.

Jimenez is the subject of extradition proceedings for illegal campaign contributions and tax evasion cases in the United States. He was granted bail by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Guillermo Purganan pending the resolution of the extradition case.

The barangay officials said the majority, if not all, of the district's barangay chairs are set to submit tomorrow an urgent appeal to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and to the House of Representatives committees on foreign affairs and on justice for Congress to safeguard Jimenez's continued tenure as their congressman.

"We are conveying to the House the sense of the people of our district, who are clamoring for Congressman Jimenez to stay as their representative in the House," the barangay officials said in their statement.

They said the urgent appeal the House would hopefully defuse the growing tension in their district.

"An adverse Supreme Court decision would affect not only Congressman Jimenez but also all of us in the district," they said. "He must be allowed to perform his constitutional role as our representative in the House."

2 cops, 2 tricyle men in accidents

POLICE Officer 1 Orlando Pinal of the Central Police District Station 9 and PO2 Jun Piodos of the Western Police District Swat were injured in two vehicular accidents in Quezon City yesterday.

Pinal suffered severe contusions and bruises after his motorcycle collided with two tricycles driven by Arnel Remedios, 18, and Edwin Paragas at the corner of Congressional and Mindanao avenues about 3:30 a.m. Remedios and Paragas were also injured.

Police said Remedios and Paragas were racing each other when they hit Pinal.

An hour later, Piodos, who was also on board his motorcycle, was rammed by an L-300 van driven by Eduardo Bonganay, 23.

Tina Santos

Medel...

From page A25

granted parole on July 15, 1975.

In her testimony, victim Editha Amistad, then a 16-year-old nutrition student of Southwestern Univesity, said Medel had snatched her at gunpoint from her boarding house on Aznar Road in Cebu City about noon on Dec. 1, 1969.

Medel, accompanied by one Boy Dennis Geyrosaga, brought Amistad to the house of his older brother Virgilio where they spent the night, the victim said.

Virgilio was supposedly enraged by the abduction and ordered Medel to take Amistad back to her boarding house the following day. But Medel refused and instead brought her to a house in Tuburan where he raped her the day after, court records showed.

Amistad was released later when her father Antonio and a policeman traced the Tuburan house.

In his defense, Medel had claimed he did not abduct his cousin since they had supposedly agreed to elope on the night of Dec. 1, 1969.

"We are second-degree cousins and we are sweethearts," he had told the court. "Every night, I visited Editha in her boarding house...during our relationship we kissed each other."

Medel also boasted of having "conquered the virginity" of his cousin in November 1969.

To prove that he and Amistad has a relationship, Medel presented two other witnesses who claimed they had "seen" the two having sex in the girl's boarding house.

But Judge Cinco ruled that Medel was guilty of forcible abduction as he was proven to have "dragged, pulled, and forced (Editha) to go (with him)."

he element of lewd design, the judge said, was established even by Medel himself when he boasted in open court that he and the victim had sex seven times in the Tuburan house.

The court also ordered Medel to pay the victim P3,000 in damages.

LOANS FOR VENDORS
Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr. meets with 24 of the city's vendors to give each of them a loan of P5,000 for capital and for rental for their stalls in a private market on Gen. Kalentong Street. The loans are part of "Oplan Kaunlaran," which aims to clear the city's sidewalks and major streets of illegal obstructions.

Young girls beware of this FX taxi driver

By Philip C. Tubeza

YOUNG GIRLS should be careful when sitting in the front passenger seat of FX taxis.

An FX taxi driver on Saturday molested a 17-year-old La Consolacion College student who sat in the front passenger seat of his taxi, police said.

The still unidentified driver masturbated beside the girl, who had boarded the taxi to go to her school in Manila, said PO3 Dolores Villegas, of the Western Police District-Women's and Children's Protection Unit.

This is the second time this month that a female FX taxi passenger was abused inside an FX taxi, police said. The first victim was even raped and then robbed, police said.

The girl described the suspect as about 35 to 40 years old. She said he had a moustache.

Police said the girl's horrible ride to school happened between 11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday after she boarded the dark green FX taxi in Divisoria to go to her school on Mendiola.

The girl told police that she got nervous when the driver told the other passenger in the taxi to get off. She said he explained to her that he was only going as far as Mendiola and that the other passenger was getting off farther.

She said she did not get off the taxi because there were only a few people in the places they passed and she was afraid he would kill her.

The girl said the driver suddenly pulled out a knife and poked it at her as he touched her legs. She said he then started masturbating.

When he was finished, he told her to calm down and even tried to befriend her, the girl said. She quoted him as saying not to worry and that he was not going to kill her.

She said he let her off the taxi, after which she went to the WPD headquarters to report the incident.

Forbes Park, drivers vs pollution

By Leila B. Salaverria

AIMING to make smoke-belching vehicles a thing of the past, several jeepney drivers in Makati City and leaders of Barangay Forbes Park have joined forces to reduce air pollution in their area.

The members of the Washington-Ayala Jeepney Association, headed by Ben Felle, and the Forbes Park Jeepney Association, headed by Joselito Santos, have agreed to have their vehicles tested for emission of air pollutants, according to Forbes Park Barangay Chair Jose Concepcion.

The program participants will be taught and advised on what to do in order to prevent pollution.

The jeepneys will be tested to determine if they emit excessive amounts of air pollutants.

The first part of the test, in which half of the vehicles are participating, began on Saturday. The second part, in which the other half will participate, will be held on Sept. 28.

All in all, 185 jeepneys are joining the program.

Concepcion said the program aims to reduce air pollutants from an average of 2.9 units per vehicle to 0.4 units, which is what the Clean Air Act requires. If this is followed accordingly, 90 percent of air pollution would be cut, Concepcion said.

"If all the 1,693 barangays in Metro Manila complied, we could cut down our pollution by 90 percent and make Metro Manila a cleaner place, instead of being the fourth worst country in air pollution," Concepcion said in a statement.

The program is being held in coordination with Forbes Park's Libreng Sakay and Transportation committee headed by barangay council member Bong Lansang, the League of Corporate Foundation's Environment Committee headed by Ramon Ventura Jr., ABS-CBN's Bantay Usok, Fort Bonifacio Development Foundation, Petron Foundation and RFM Foundation.

Houseboy nabbed for slay, burning of father and son

A HOUSEBOY was arrested for allegedly killing a man and his 12-year-old son and then setting their bodies on fire in Makati City, police said.

The bodies of Mario Ibarra and his 12-year-old son, who was not identified, were found yesterday in the ruins of their house at the corner of the South Superhighway and Arnaiz Street, police said.

Police said the charred bodies of the Ibarras bore several stab wounds.

The suspect, identified only as Artem, was arrested in Malabon City.

Police said the Ibarras were killed between 11 p.m. Saturday and 1 a.m. yesterday.

The suspect admitted at the Makati police station that he had killed the Ibarras. He claimed that the father had been maltreating him, police said.

Christian V. Esguerra

'History, culture, commerce go together'

ATIENZA joins leaders of the Filipino Chinese community in celebrating the Chinese moon festival, in Binondo, Manila.
RANDY HORMILLOSA

By Jerome Aning

CAN HISTORY and culture get along with commerce in a city's development?

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza thinks so, and he said he is applying this in his organized vending program.

He said enhancing a city's character by highlighting its distinct history and culture as well as its commercial appeal is a major factor in the city's development.

Atienza said this to participants of a convention on development planning in the Philippine urban setting, held at the New World Hotel in Makati City.

Participating in the convention, entitled "Crossroads: Our Filipino Way of Street Living," were students in tourism, hotel and restaurant management and urban planning from the University of Sto. Tomas, Technological University of the Philippines, Philippine Aeronautical Training School and Sienna College.

Atienza introduced the concept of "organized living," or addressing public concerns such as the need to clear major streets and sidewalks of obstructions.

"History, culture and shopping: this is what tourists, both foreign and domestic, are looking for," he said. "This is what we're offering in Manila."

He said that while the city continues to try to give the sidewalk back to pedestrians and improve traffic in major avenues and clear them of obstructions, it also has to consider the economic needs of vendors.

In doing so, the city also promotes the distinct appeal of areas such as Divisoria as excellent shopping destinations for local and foreign tourists, he said.

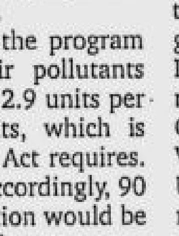
Atienza said other Asian cities already have high-end shopping destinations that offer designer brands, but Manila has shopping areas that have items comparable in quality to the branded ones.

"The key is to organize these areas properly so that they become more attractive, orderly and accessible," Atienza said.

He said he is happy that other Metro Manila mayor such as Makati's Jejomar Binay, Mandaluyong's Benhur Abalos and Quezon city's Feliciano Belmonte are applying organized vending in their localities.

It's either laugh or cry for RP basketball squad

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

(MABUHAY: To his many admirers who wonder whatever happened to their hero, Dr. Nemesio Prudente will be at the Bulwagang Mabini of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) this morning. Doc will distribute and sign copies of his novel, "The Revolutionists," which will be launched today. Dr. Prudente, a committed political scientist, is a battle-scarred survivor of the fight against the Marcos dictatorship. Doc has sustained his grim fight for the total liberalization of the Filipino masses.)

***

THERE are great sports commercials that can make you cry.

But this one on the Philippine national basketball team is an outright stunner. It can make you laugh or cry, depending on which side of the basketball temple you worship.

Certainly, the ad, courtesy of Viva TV, can only be classified as an out-and-out hard sell.

Look, the copywriter may have no idea what a winning, sound, surefire brand of international basketball is all about.

But as our national basketball team to the Busan Games has to be sold hard, the fellow wasted no time.

He took a long shot, went for the goal and declared, for all amazed television viewers to see, that the RP National basketball team would have the last laugh in Busan.

***

Well, if the sales pitch sounded familiar, you must be listening often to that regular Palace rattling on how police authorities would finally put an end to the terror being sowed by kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

Frankly speaking, the commercial, a come-on for the current RP team tune-up matches against the visiting Qatar national squad, had sent many knowledgeable ringsiders laughing (hard) ahead of the Asiad tournament.

I for one had found it odd that, all of a sudden, the Philippine national team has appeared like a sure bet for the gold medal in Busan.

As that cute TV commercial loved to trumpet hard, the Nationals used to be a laughing stock, the butt of jokes hereabouts.

Forget about that. The screen next throbs with a series of gutsy shots by RP team members, followed by jubilation and the ecstatic cry that the Nationals would end up having the last laugh.

***

You may find that funny. But this hard sell of the RP basketball squad is anything but a laughing matter.

Why? Well, unlike before, not all fans here at home continue to take the RP basketball gold quest in the Busan Asiad seriously.

In fact, the gold hunt has been left to other teams, mainly billiards, boxing and bowling, the so-called 3 Bs of the RP contingent.

It used to be that Filipino gold hopefuls could fall and fail in other fronts.

These assorted aches would, however, be soothed for as long as the RP basketball team performed creditably and came home in one piece.

However, it had come to a sad point that losing efforts by RP basketball teams in regional competitions like the forthcoming Asiad were no longer a subject of national mourning.

***

After the Philippines became a favorite whipping boy of basketball powers like China and South Korea in the region, our sports fans have stopped pinning great hopes on the RP basketball team.

Anyway, remember that not too long ago, PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino had confessed he would be glad enough if the RP basketball team retains the bronze medal in Busan.

Actually, it could not be determined if the fellow who penned that commercial had [illegible]ered to show the script to Jong Uichico, the national team coach

Knowing Uichico, he would have requested for a tamer and more objective selling line.

Maybe Commissioner Bernardino himself would have requested that the advanced shout of delight be toned down.

***

However, that screaming basketball commercial over IBC 13 was bound to be upheld by the RP team exhibition against Qatar.

More fans will definitely be delighted and swayed after the two-game series is over.

You see, after watching that commercial a few times, I myself have started to feel giddy.

I'm not too sure anymore. Maybe I should also reconsider my grim view of the RP team prospects in the Busan Asiad.

You see, winning the basketball gold in Busan could be much, much tougher than putting a check on rampant kidnappings hereabouts.

But what's wrong with believing in a television commercial.

We all need a good laugh, don't we?

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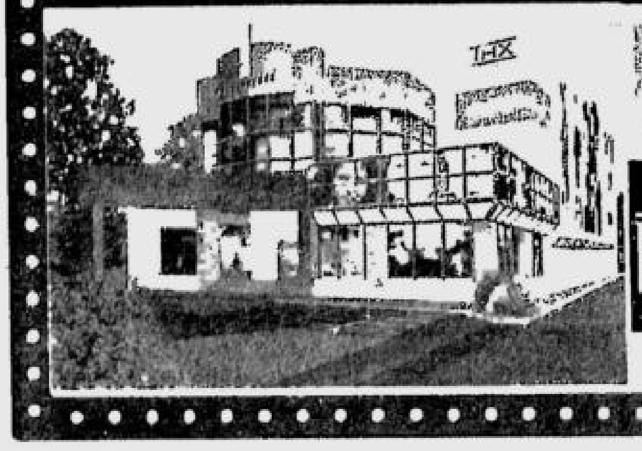

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5:00 PM, 7:30PM, 9:45PM

ROAD TO PERDITION
EVERY FATHER IS A HERO TO HIS SON.

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888
1 ROAD TO PERDITION
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 VOODOO
5 REVELATION
6 JOLOGS
7 TUKAAN
8 VAN WILDER

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7181416
1 VAN WILDER
2 TUKAAN
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 SIMONE
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 SIGNS
7 REVELATION
8 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
9 JOLOGS
10 VOODOO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 SIGNS
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 JOLOGS
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 VAN WILDER
6 VOODOO
7 REIGN OF FIRE
8 REVELATION
9 TRIPLE X
10 HIGH RISK
11 LAMAN
12 TUKAAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 ROAD TO PERDITION
2 REVELATION
3 SIGNS
4 VAN WILDER
5 BOURNE IDENTITY
6 REIGN OF FIRE
7 VOODOO
8 LEFT BEHIND
9 JOLOGS
10 HIGH RISK
11 SIMONE
12 TUKAAN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 SIMONE
2 VAN WILDER
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 REVELATION
5 SIGNS
6 SPIDER
7 VOODOO
8 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
9 JOLOGS
10 REIGN OF FIRE
11 TUKAAN
12 HIGH RISK

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 REVELATION
2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3 TUKAAN
4 JOLOGS
5 VAN WILDER
6 VOODOO
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 REIGN OF FIRE

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 VOODOO
2 SIMONE
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 VAN WILDER
5 REVELATION
6 JOLOGS
7 LEFT BEHIND
8 REIGN OF FIRE
9 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
10 TUKAAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 AUSTIN POWERS
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 INSOMNIA
5 HUMAN EATER
6 DERAILED
7 SIGNS
8 HIGH RISK

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 BAKAT
2 CLOSED
3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 DERAILED
5 SIGNS
6 AUSTIN POWERS
7 CLOSED
8 HUMAN EATER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 SEX & ZEN
4 TUKAAN
5 SIMONE
6 JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 TUKAAN
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 VAN WILDER

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 ROAD TO PERDITION
2 TUKAAN
3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 JOLOGS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 AUSTIN POWERS
2 DERAILED
3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 BAKAT
5 HIGH RISK
6 SIGNS

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
11:15 FS/11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/ 10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END
LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate · P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279
1 THX ROAD TO PERDITION
11:10MF 1:45 4:20 6:55 9:30LMF 11:33END
2 VAN WILDER
3 SIGNS
4 VOODOO
5 ROAD TO PERDITION
6 REIGN OF FIRE
7 BOURNE IDENTITY
8 KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL
9 KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL (AM)/SPIDER (PM)
10 REVELATION

MATINEE PRICE:P80 THX cinema / P65 Reg'l cinema
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 ROAD TO PERDITION
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 BOURNE IDENTITY
4 REVELATION
5 VOODOO
6 SIMONE
7 VAN WILDER

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 TRIPLE X
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 VAN WILDER
4 BOURNE IDENTITY
5 VOODOO
6 SIMONE
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 JOLOGS

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 JOLOGS
5 VAN WILDER
6 SIMONE
7 VOODOO
8 REVELATION

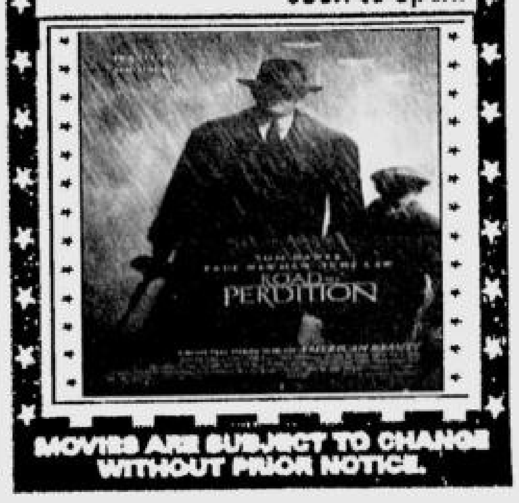
Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 REVELATION
3 VAN WILDER
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 VOODOO
6 TUKAAN

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 AUSTIN POWERS 3
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 SIGNS
4 LAMAN
5 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6 SEX & ZEN

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 AUSTIN POWERS 3
2 SIGNS
3 HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4 DERAILED
5 BAKAT
6 BOURNE IDENTITY

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270
1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 SIMONE
4 SEX & ZEN
5 TUKAAN
6 ROAD TO PERDITION

malabon citisquare- soon to open.



MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

'Jologs,' pro and con

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE YOUTH film. 'Jologs,' has elicited varying reactions from viewers. Some like it a lot, while others say they can see through its bluster. What's the real score on Star Cinema's latest hit?

On the plus side, the film is refreshingly different because it's a youth film that tries to confront some real issues that bother young people in this country, unlike other escapist productions that situate their young characters in a never-never land of music, sex and fads.

Also different is the movie's preference for "syndrome" scripting, rather than the usual plot-centered orientation. This more impressionistic approach lends itself well to the youth syndrome, with all of its variety, and even contradictions.

Most potentially attractive of all is the film's theme, which has to do with the interconnectedness of life and experience. From time to time, the movie's young protagonists, most of whom are strangers to one another, find their lives intersecting at meaningful moments.

The film is also boosted by a number of interesting performances that imbue the production with vitality and texture.

Finally, the movie plays around with time, occasionally using flashbacks,, fast-forwards, rewinds and other devices to further point out significant developments, relationships, key moments, etc. While this can be confusing, its effect is generally positive, and keeps viewers on their toes.

Conversely, the film is deemed deficient because it succeeds more in the telling than in the doing. Its characters' lines articulate its theme (everybody being linked, etc.), but the film action itself doesn't really vivify this, except towards the end.

The film has a big cast of young leads, but most of its scenes are really small encounters between two or three principal characters. As a result, the movie fails to fulfill its promise of dramatizing the interconnectedness of young people's lives.

All in all, "Jologs" attempts to do something complex and meaningful, but its actual achievement falls short of that lofty goal. But it remains an interesting viewing experience.

Parenting convention

ANTHONY and **Maricel (Laxa) Pangilinan** are concerned about parent-child relations today, and with reason. In 1984, 90 percent of Filipino youths looked up to their parents as role models. Today, that figure has gone down to 40 percent.

What accounts for this disturbing decline? How can it be reversed? Anthony and Maricel have teamed up with BusinessWorks, Inc. to provide some answers and other inputs by way of the First Philippine Parenting Convention at the NBC Tent at the Fort, from Oct. 26 to 29.

The convention is open to parents, educators, church leaders, development consultants, advocates of children and family issues, and other interested parties. There will be a series of conferences and lectures conducted by leaders in various areas of family relationships, utilizing the technology of cable, internet, broadcast and multi-media training.

There will also be an exhibition showcasing the latest in parenting and family products and services. Call the PPC secretariat at 434-0139, or log on to www.philippineparenting.org.

New finalist

LAST Sept. 14, **Sarah Geronimo** bested three other weekly winners to become the sixth finalist in the "Star for a Night" grand finals to be held later this year. The 13-year-old talent from Sta. Cruz, Manila performed **Celine Dion's** "It's All Coming Back to Me."

Sarah will be up against 19-year-old **Roxanne Castro**, 12-year-old **Angeli Flores** and **Angeline Quinto**, and 14-year-old **Kristela Cristobal** and **Carlo San Jose**. The winner of the grand finals will romp off with the P1 M top plum.

Elvis is alive and well and even has a new hit

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MY dear friend and former officemate **Susan de Guzman** gave me a huge book, "Graceland," for my birthday last month. Sue knows I like **Elvis Presley**, although the king of rock n' roll lived earlier than my generation, and she remembered me when she saw the book.

.I recall my grade school teacher crying when she learned that Elvis died, in 1977. Strangely enough, I got to like Elvis many years after he died.

In the late '80s, I cried after reading the book, "Elvis and Me," written by his ex-wife **Priscilla Beaulieu Presley** (as told to **Sandra Harmon**). I learned how Elvis coped with fame and how he became dependent on uppers and downers.

I also learned how he and Priscilla met, their much-publicized romance which led to their wedding, their stormy marriage and their divorce in 1973.

In 1995, my Atlanta-based best friend, **Lynette Reyes-Fernandez**, took me to Graceland, Elvis' sprawling and breathtaking residence in Memphis, Tennessee, very near his birthplace in Tupelo (also in Tennessee). Graceland is like a huge theme park that attracts more than 5,000 visitors daily. We were told it is the second most visited building in the United States, next only to the White House in Washington DC.

Elvis' career and private life took many less than admirable turns, but his loyal fans ignore them and instead remember his youthful charm and his hits.

He's long dead and gone but his old recordings, films, TV specials and memorabilia continue to rake in money for his estate. The merchandise store in Graceland sells Elvis souvenirs, from shirts to postcards to calendars.

Millions

A recent Associated Press report said that last year, Elvis earned $37 million from record sales alone, as much as **Jennifer Lopez** did.

Today, 25 years after his death, Elvis remains immortal through his music.

Elvis died on Aug. 16, 1977 at the age of 42. He would have been 67 today. Every August, fans all over the world observe his death anniversary, but this year was particularly special because it was his silver death anniversary.

In Tokyo, there was a huge gathering of Elvis impersonators from all over Asia to remember Elvis' death in a five-hour concert. They all came sporting pompadours with sideburns, and wearing the trademark Elvis blazers and blue suede shoes.

Upbeat

In Tennessee, there was a big concert where Elvis himself "performed" on a giant screen and even "sang" with celebrity performers.

Priscilla Presley is now even planning an Elvis musical, which she will mount with the Los Angeles-based Immortal Entertainment Group. It is meant to be an "upbeat show," similar to the current Broadway production, "Mama Mia," which features more than 20 Abba hits.

A nationwide talent search will be conducted next year for the lead parts of Elvis and Priscilla in the musical.

Elvis' ex-wife said in a recent wire report the musical could be staged in Broadway, but it would definitely debut in Las Vegas, where Elvis performed in the final years of his life.

In recording, Elvis recently grabbed the crown in the UK charts, where he battled the Beatles for having the biggest number of No. 1 hits, with a new version of an obscure tune that barely made it to the charts when it was first released 34 years ago.

The song is a dance-remix of "A Little Less Conversation," which Elvis performed in his 1968 film, "Live a Little, Love a Lot."

The original version of the song reached No. 69 on the US singles charts in 1968, but failed to hit the charts at all in Britain. It was used in the soundtrack of last year's "Ocean's Eleven," which starred **George Clooney**, **Brad Pitt**, **Andy Garcia** and **Julia Roberts** and was directed by **Steven Soderbergh**.

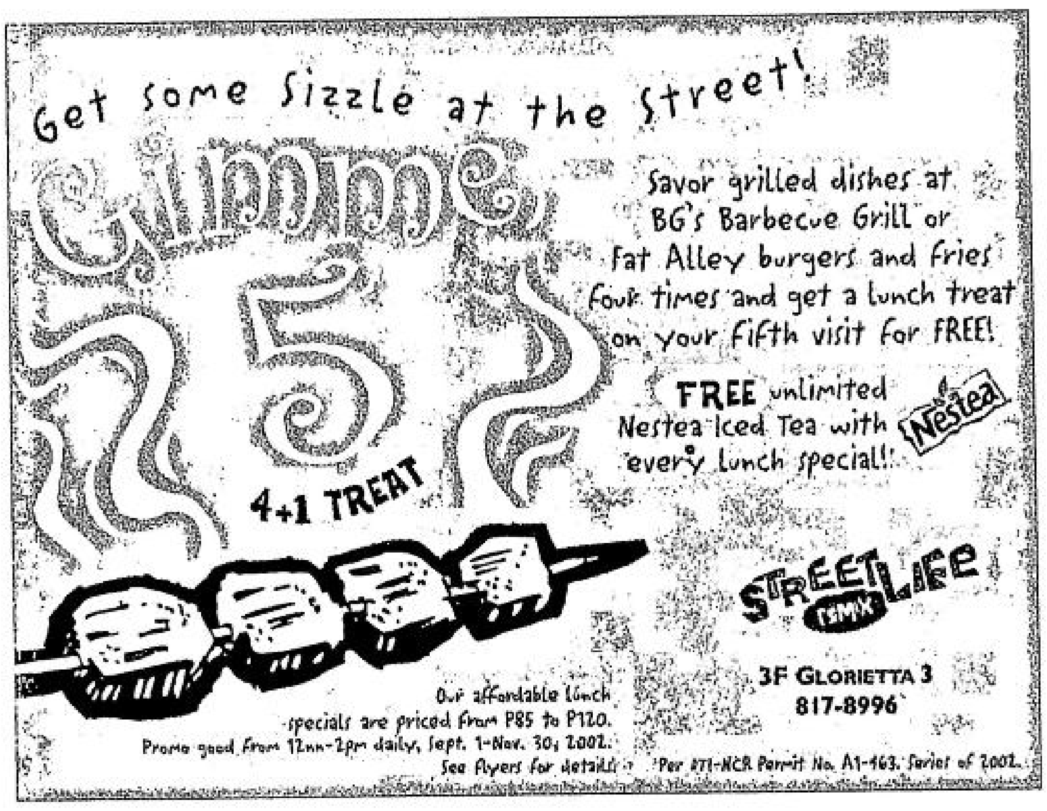
Updated

The updated version of "A Little Less Conversation" adds a minute-long electronic introduction, surrounds Elvis' vocals with new rhythms and is loaded with dance loops and techno tracks—all for a little more than six minutes of music.

This week in the US, "Elvis 30 #1 Hits" will be released, still as part of his 25th death anniversary commemoration.

The one-CD collection contains 30

ELVIS/A30


Get some Sizzle at the Street!
Gimme 5
4+1 TREAT
Savor grilled dishes at BG's Barbecue Grill or Fat Alley burgers and fries four times and get a lunch treat on your fifth visit for FREE!
FREE unlimited Nestea Iced Tea with every lunch special!
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STREET LIFE
3F GLORIETTA 3
817-8996
Our affordable lunch specials are priced from P85 to P120.
Promo good from 12nn-2pm daily, Sept. 1-Nov. 30, 2002.
See flyers for details.
Per #71-NCR Permit No. A1-463. Series of 2002.

SWING YOUR WAY TO SPAIN WITH KLM & JOEY!
Set the dancefloor on fire at JOEY'S DISCO NIGHT and fly away to Spain with a friend on board KLM!

OCTOBER 30, 2002 WEDNESDAY 7PM NBC TENT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
JOEY'S DISCO NIGHT

On the 30th of October, at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, Joey@92.3 pits the best dance hobbyists in the land against each other for a night of fancy footwork. Inspired by Joey's sensational weekend programs ("'70s Swing Out" and Only in the '80s"), the competition is bound to shake the metro to its very core. Ushering in this dancefest is a musical showdown between '70s retro band Route 70 and '80s legend Rage. Partygoers are sure to enjoy a shower of fun, food and freebies with an extra dose of thrill for the hopeful kings and queens of swing: a chance to bag spectacular trips for 2 to the US and Spain.

So make those weekend lessons count and dance your way to a getaway to remember. All you have to do is pick up the phone and give Jett Carpio a ring at 882-2862 *for the skinny on the shimmy. Elimination rounds kick off on the first week of October.*

JOEY@92.3 Rhythms METRO MANILA

Gallons and gallons of everyone's favorite Nestlé chocolates in tubs. Ain't that sweet?
ICE CREAM
Nestlé
CRUNCH
ICE CREAM
Nestlé
MILO
ICE CREAM
3.8 L
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smarties
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Life is creamier.

MILO
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Carnation
Coffee-mate
NIDO
NIDO
NIDO
NIDO
NESLAC
Nestlé
Nestea
NESCAFÉ
NESCAFÉ
LIBERTY
Milkmaid
Nestlé Low Fat Milk
Nestlé Fresh Milk
MILO
CORN FLAKES
Koko Krunch
MILO
GOLD
Fruitina
Nestlé Almond Clusters
Nestlé Banana Nut Clusters
Pancit Canton
MAGGI
Nestlé cream
NESCAFÉ

Bangon na't sumali!

Nestlé
Mag-Nestlé Almusal

Gising Milyonaryo

Isang label lang, may entry na.
Puwede ka nang maging isa sa
20 MILYONARYO!

Magmadali! Hanggang September 30
lang ang deadline ng entries.

₱30 MILLION
TOTAL PRIZES

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0541 Series of 2002

Predicting the Emmys

From page A31

("Everybody Loves Raymond"), Jane Kaczmarek ("Malcolm in the Middle"), Debra Messing ("Will & Grace"), Sarah Jessica Parker ("Sex and the City").

I love Kaczmarek in "Malcolm in the Middle" but she won't win this year due to the poor episode she sent the voters. The same goes for Messing (poor Debra, who's the only main cast member of "Will & Grace" to have not won an Emmy). Parker submitted a good tape but she might be overshadowed by the flashier episodes submitted by her competitors.

Logic tells us that this is Aniston's year because of her pregnancy and all, but I have a feeling Heaton will pull off a three-in-a-row win due to a great tape submission.

My predictions in other categories: Supporting Actor in a Drama, John Spencer for "The West Wing"; Supporting Actress in a Drama, Stockard Channing, "The West Wing"; Supporting Actor in a Comedy, Bryan Cranston for "Malcolm in the Middle"; Supporting Actress in a Comedy, Doris Roberts, "Everybody Loves Raymond"; Writing in a Drama, "Alias"; Directign in a Drama, "24"; Writing in a Comedy, "Everybody Loves Raymond" ("Marie's Sculpture"); and Directing in a Comedy, "Will & Grace."

The Emmys will air live on Studio 23 at 8 a.m. today, with a primetime telecast at 6 p.m.

Kuh ...

From page A31

Films star Maui Taylor, one of the hottest new sexy sirens in local cinema.

Special guest is Rico's daughter daughter Tosca Puno, also a Viva Records artist who will soon launch her solo album.

The beautiful and talented Tosca Puno is also handled by Rico J's manager Norma Japitana.

In November, Rico J. will do concerts in the US, with shows in Reno (Nov. 9), Sacramento (Nov. 10), Los Angeles (Nov. 16), Connecticut (Nov. 23), Virginia (Nov. 24), Reno (Nov. 30), San Diego (Dec. 4 and 5) and San Francisco (Dec. 6).

He comes home for a brief spell after Dec. 6, but returns to the US Dec. 21 for a show for Joel Longares' Atlas in Las Vegas.

Rico J. will be in town during the Christmas holidays to spread cheer for his constituents in Makati.

Elvis ...

From page A28

of his No. 1 hits like "Heartbreak Hotel," "Hound Dog," "Jailhouse Rock" and "Love Me Tender," among others.

In the Philippines, "A Little Less Conversation" and "Elvis 30 #1 Hits" are released by BMG Records (Pilipinas).

To promote the new Elvis CDs and celebrate the life and legacy of the King, BMG Records will host a retro party tonight.

The event, dubbed as "A Little More Elvis," will be held at 9 p.m. at Hard Rock Café in Makati.

It will include an exhibit of Elvis memorabilia, contests and giveaways, highlighted by a performance of Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and Friends, who will sing memorable Elvis tunes.

Also performing is Alfred "Boy" Sanchez, known as the "Elvis Presley of the New Millennium."

I once read that Elvis is an anagram for "lives." Elvis is more than a star. He has become an immortal icon.

That explains why fans' devotion for the king of rock n' roll never dies.

Personal

HAPPY birthday to my writer-friend **Salve Asis**, who turns a year (less) wild today. May all your wishes come true, girl. As **Isah Red** loves to say, "You've come a long way from Sta. Elena!"

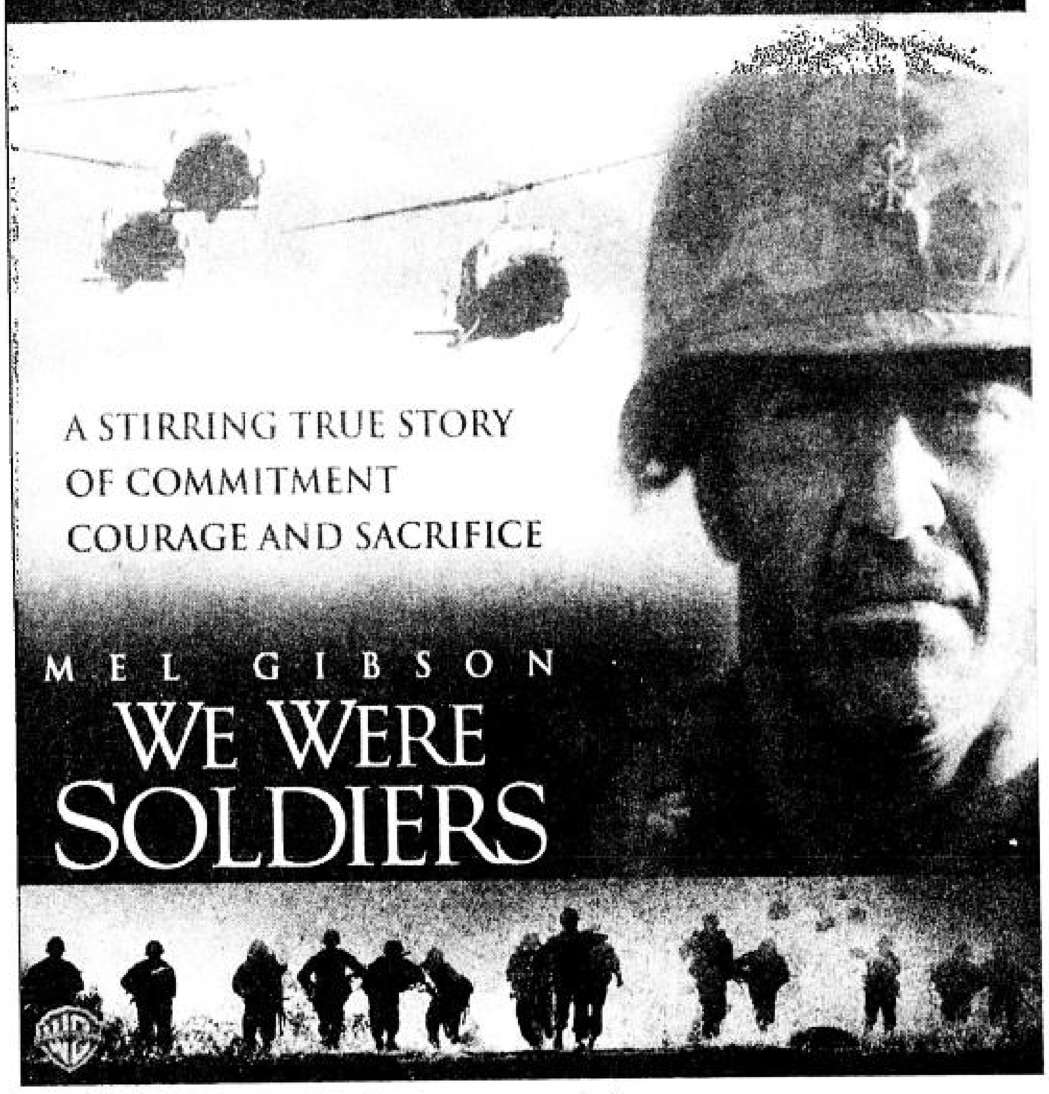
Birthday greetings, too, to publicist **Edwin Galvez** on Sept. 25. Edwin is the singing and dancing partner of designer **Frederick Peralta** in our videoke nights at I.O.

"A JARRING THRILLER."
LOPEZ HOLDS THE SCREEN IN A STAR PERFORMANCE.'
Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES
"...SUSPENSEFUL..."
Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
JENNIFER LOPEZ
ENOUGH
SonyPictures.com

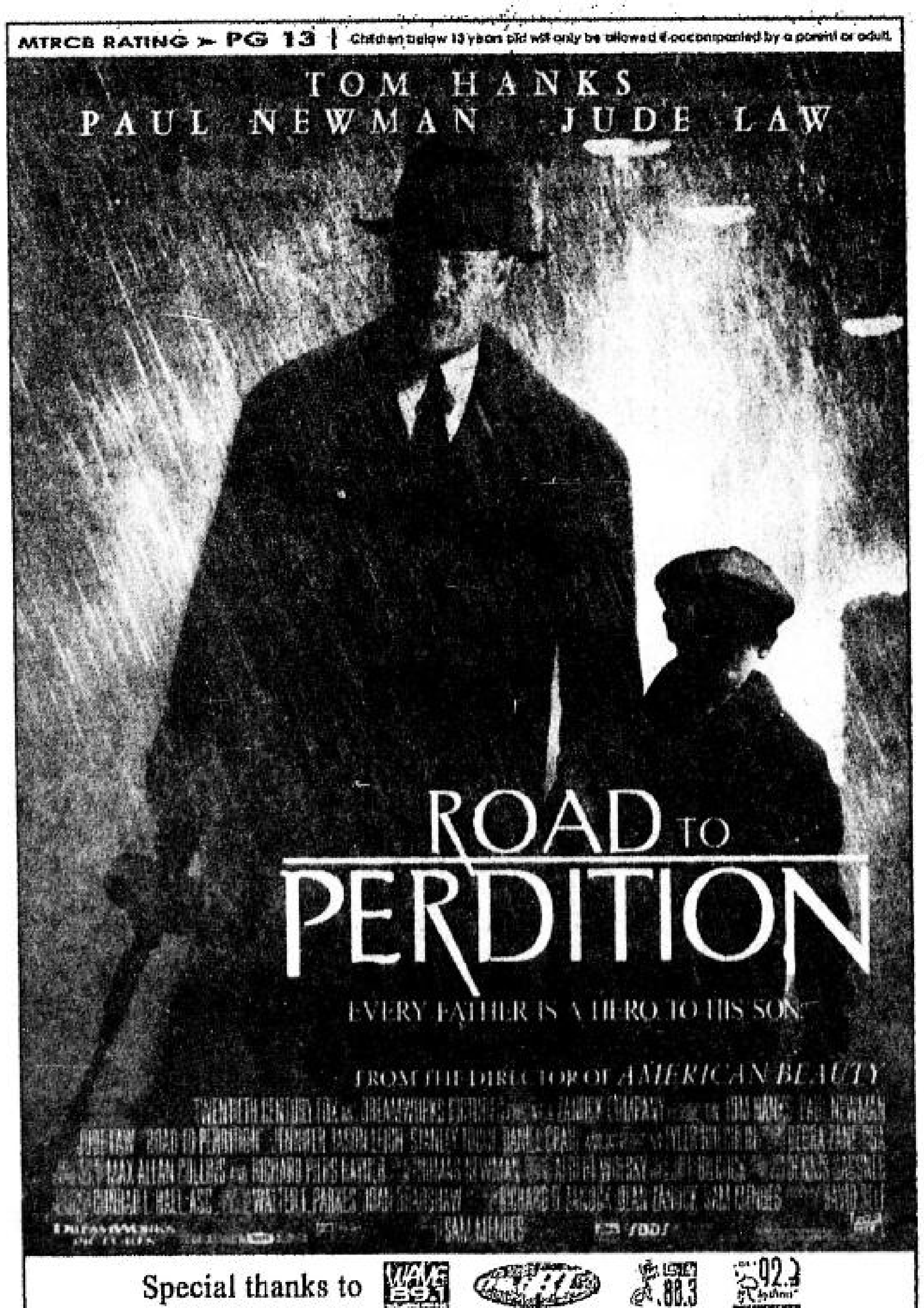
OPENS ON SEPT. 25 AT ALL ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD BRANCHES
MTRCB PG-13 Parents Strongly Cautioned
Some scenes maybe inappropriate for children under age of 13

CINEMAS in cooperation with COLUMBIA PICTURES present
The Simultaneous Advance Screening of
ENOUGH
GALLERIA - Cinema 6
METRO EAST - PASIG - Cinema 2
Monday, September 23, 2002, 7:30 p.m.
Can't Get Enough...
SEPT. 18 to OCT. 2 FASHION & BEAUTY FAIR
SEPT. 23 FASHION SHOW & COCKTAILS
(6 PM-7PM) METRO EAST-PASIG
(10PM-11PM) GALLERIA
Special thanks to: Cream Silk, K93FM your best friend playin' today's best pop, Za
and also to: LACTACYD

NOW ON VIDEO!


A STIRRING TRUE STORY
OF COMMITMENT
COURAGE AND SACRIFICE
MEL GIBSON
WE WERE SOLDIERS

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


TOM HANKS
PAUL NEWMAN JUDE LAW
ROAD TO PERDITION
EVERY FATHER IS A HERO TO HIS SON
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN BEAUTY

Special thanks to
NOW SHOWING!

OPENS SEPTEMBER 25!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

"A JARRING THRILLER."
LOPEZ HOLDS THE SCREEN IN A STAR PERFORMANCE.'
Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES
"...SUSPENSEFUL..."
Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
JENNIFER LOPEZ
ENOUGH

From fugitive to avenger!

J. Lo strikes back in 'ENOUGH'

Slim (JENNIFER LOPEZ) is working hard as a waitress when she is swept off her feet by Mitch (BILLY CAMPBELL), a handsome, rich businessman. Convinced she's found her Prince Charming, Slim marries Mitch in a lavish wedding, and settles with him in a fabulous dream home, where they are soon blessed with a lovely daughter, Gracie (TESSA ALLEN).

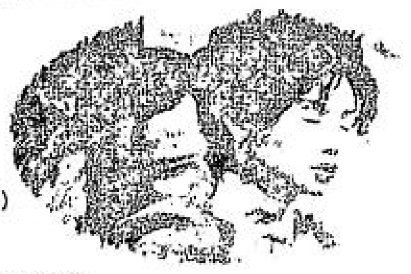
But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."

Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.

AN ENTERTAINING, MUST-SEE THRILLER!

*Parents strongly cautioned. Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under 13.

AYALA CINEMAS
Discover ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY
SCREENED TO SOLD-OUT AUDIENCES DURING CINEMANILA 2002
In the Mood for Love
"DIZZY WITH A ROMANTIC SPIRIT THAT'S BEEN MISSING FROM CINEMAS FOREVER."
— Elvis Mitchell, New York Times Film Critic
WINNER at the Cannes Film Festival
Best Actor - Tony Leung
Cannes Prix du Technique-for Editing, Cinematography & Prod. Design
Directed by Wong Kar Wai
Starring Maggie Cheung & Tony Leung
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
OPENS SEPT. 25
NOKIA Solar FILMS INC. INQUIRER



ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
The 4th Israeli Film Festival
AYALA CINEMAS

Sept.19 (Thu)
Clean Sweep 2:00
Kippur 4:30
Growing Pains 7:00
The Policeman 9:30

Sept.20 (Fri)
The Policeman 11:30
Don't Give a Damn 2:00
Growing Pains 4:30
Total Love 7:00
Yana's Friends 9:30

Sept.21 (Sat)
Growing Pains 11:30
Yana's Friends 2:00
Clean Sweep 4:30
Kippur 7:00
Clean Sweep 9:30

Sept.22 (Sun)
Total Love 11:30
The Policeman 2:00
Yana's Friends 4:30
Don't Give a Damn 7:00
Clean Sweep 9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)
Total Love 2:30
Don't Give a Damn 4:30
The Policeman 7:00
Kippur 9:30

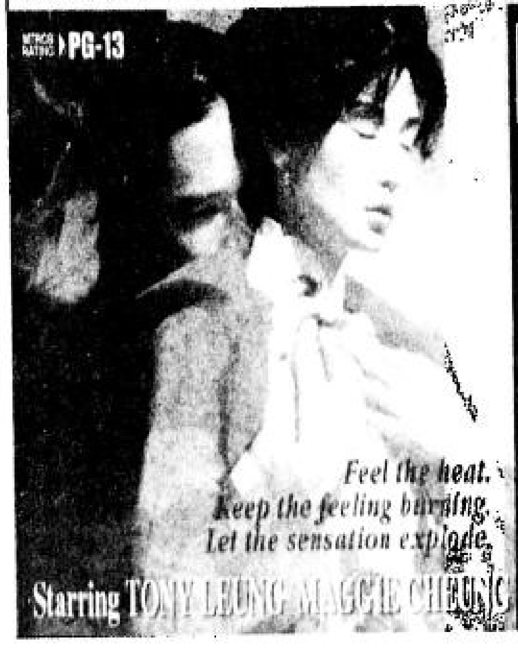
Sept. 24 (Tue.)
Growing Pains 2:30
Yana's Friends 4:30
Clean Sweep 7:00
Don't Give A Damn 9:30

Sept.25 (Wed)
Kippur 2:30
Don't Give a Damn 4:30
Total Love 7:00
Yana's Friends 9:30

AYALA CINEMAS
NEW ADVENTURE
09. 25. 02
SKYFILMS

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

"PASSION EXPLOSION" STARTS SEPTEMBER 25
EXCLUSIVELY AT GREENBELT AND SM MEGAMALL


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Feel the heat.
Keep the feeling burning.
Let the sensation explode.
Starring TONY LEUNG MAGGIE CHEUNG

WINNER CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
Best Actor - Tony Leung
Best in Cinematography
Best Foreign Language Film
DIRECTED BY WONG KAR-WAI OF "HAPPY TOGETHER" & "CHUNGKING EXPRESS".
in the mood for love
花樣年華

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Predicting the Emmys

By Irwin Contreras,
Contributor

THIS is being marketed as a "thriller" and it is, in a way. But it is more of a drama than anything else.

So don't expect any big action scenes. The slow pace may turn off some viewers who expect to see a conventional Hollywood thriller. More open-minded viewers willing to let the story unfold in its own pace will be rewarded with a cathartic viewing experience we seldom get from the cinemas these days.

For the first time in a very long while, the Emmys are finally going to be aired live in the Philippines, courtesy of Studio 23. The past years, we all had to wait for at least a month before we could watch the Emmys.

Studio 23 is launching a text contest where texters can make their own predictions of the winners in the major categories. But predicting the Emmys is not as easy as predicting the Oscars or even the Grammys.

According to awards show expert Tom O'Neill, author of the book "The Emmys" and creator of the site GoldDerby (goldderby.com), the Emmys differ from other major industry awards in its rule that the voters must stipulate that they have viewed all of the nominees' submitted tapes (each nominee must submit a sample episode representing teh best of their work in the past season) before they could vote.

It is this very rule that made low-rated underdog shows like "Hill Street Blues" and "Cheers" win Emmys in their first season, thereby saving them from cancellation and making them favorites among viewers.

A couple of years ago, however, they altered the rules a bit. Before, voters had to be sequestered in hotels in order to make sure that they would watch all the tapes. Now, voters are allowed to view the tapes at home, thereby not guaranteeing that all the tapes will be viewed. This could make the Emmy race even more unpredictable than ever.

But that will not stop pundits from trying their luck. Here are my own thoughts on the Emmy race this year in the 10 major categories.

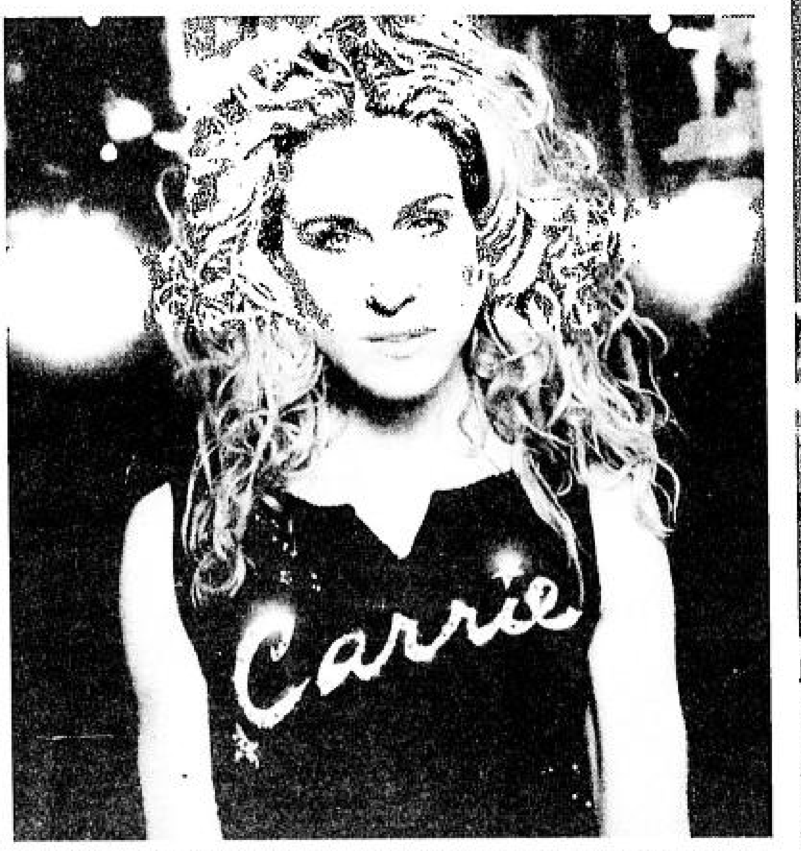
Outstanding Drama Series: "CSI," "Law & Order," "Six Feet Under," "24," "The West Wing."

"CSI" is here only because it is a ratings grabber. It does not have enough prestige and emotion to catapult it victory. "Law & Order" has been in this category since 1990 and everyone agrees it's old news. "24" is my personal favorite but its radical premise may be too weird for older viewers. Many TV critics have remarked that two-time winner "The West Wing" has somewhat dipped in quality in its third season, but it still carries enough clout to possibly pull off a three-peat.

But the most talked about series in the bunch is none other than "Six Feet Under," created by Oscar-winning "American Beauty" screenwriter Alan Ball. The drama about a dysfunctional family of morticians drew raves from critics and audiences and won a Golden Globe earlier this year. It may be the most likely winner.

Outstanding Comedy Series: "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Everybody Loves Raymond," "Friends," "Sex and the City," "Will & Grace."

"Curb Your Enthusiasm" is a surprise nominee. It could pull off an upset win but I don't see that happening. A lot of people are saying this is the year of "Friends" but the Academy has never been kind to "Friends" awards-wise. In its eight years on the air, it has only won, so far, three Emmys (for directing, supporting actress for Lisa Kudrow, and a guest actor Emmy for Bruce Willis). That plus the fact that it does not have nominations in the Writing or Directing categories. No show without a Writing and/or Directing nomination has ever won the top prize in more than 20 years.



SARAH JESSICA PARKER. Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for "Sex and the City

JENNIFER ANISTON. Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for "Friends"

"Everybody Loves Raymond" is too blue-collar for the elitist Academy and no traditional family show has ever won the top prize since "The Cosby Show." Critics have expressed dismay that "Will & Grace" also has an uneven, at best, season. That leaves "Sex and the City," last year's surprise champ, which reached a creative peak last season, clear to take the top prize.

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series. Michael Chiklis ("The Shield), Michael C. Hall ("Six Feet Under"), Peter Krause ("Six Feet Under"), Martin Sheen ("The West Wing"), Kiefer Sutherland ("24").

This is a race between Krause and Sutherland, if the buzz based on the submitted tapes is right. Chiklis' character in "The Shield" is said to be way too unlikable. Sheen submitted a sub-par tape, not enough to make him win the gold.

Hall entered himself as a lead actor but many people view him as a supporting actor. So that leaves Krause and Sutherland. Bet on Krause. They tend to take morticians more seriously than CIA agents.

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. "Amy Brenneman ("Judging Amy"), Frances Conroy ("Six Feet Under"), Jennifer Garner ("Alias"), Rachel Griffiths ("Six Feet Under"), Allison Janney ("The West Wing").

Brenneman's nomination is a joke. Her show is mediocre at best and there are far worthier contenders out there like Sarah Michelle Gellar ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer") and Sela Ward ("Once and Again"). Cross out Brenneman. Conroy and Griffiths are victims of picking the wrong episodes to submit to the Academy.

So that leaves Janney (promoted to lead this year after winning twice in the supporting category), who submitted the episode where she denounces the treatment of women in the Arab world, and Garner who who submitted the first episode of her series. Janney may have prestige and importance on her side, but Garner is the true lead of her series. Garner will win.

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series: Kelsey Grammer ("Frasier"), Matt LeBlanc ("Friends"), Bernie Mac ("The Bernie Mac Show"), Matthew Perry ("Friends"), Ray Romano ("Everybody Loves Raymond").

Matthew Perry did not deserve that nomination. He deserved to win two years ago, for the episodes where he proposed to Monica. He did not do anything to merit a nomination this season. His nomination should have been given to true leaders like Eric McCormack ("Will & Grace") and Frankie Muniz ("Malcolm in the Middle"). So count him out. Three-time winner Grammer is old news and he selected a poor episode to submit this season.

That leaves LeBlanc, Romano and Mac. Both Mac and Romano have one major hurdle to survive: Both are stand-up comics turned actors. No male stand-up comic has ever won an Emmy for acting. That leaves the slate clear for LeBlanc, who was wonderful as Joey this season.

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series: Jennifer Aniston ("Friends"), Patricia Heaton

PREDICTING/A30

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SUGAT / FERDINANDO
ODEON	ROAD TO PERDITION
ODEON-2	JASON X / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	TUKAAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	STARWARS, BIG FAT LIAR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BAKAT
REMAR	TUKAAN
REMAR-2	BAKAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUKAAN
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 5
CINEMA-2	ROAD TO PERDITION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LAMAN
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	XXX
CINEMA-7	YOUNG VIRGINS
CINEMA-8	SIMONE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REVELATION
CINEMA-12	VOODOO
CINEMA-14	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-15	LEFT BEHIND THE MOVIE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Kuh 'By Special Arrangement'

POP diva Kuh Ledesma gets her turn to mount the Casino Filipino stage when Live Artists Production presents "Kuh Ledesma: By Special Arrangement," Sept. 27, 9 p.m.

In the past, Casino Filipino has played host to some of the industry's biggest divas, such Zsa-zsa Padilla and Regine Velasquez. This time, Kuh will treat the audience to the kind of songs she knows best: romantic Filipino tunes, contemporary classics, upbeat numbers and a sprinkling of all-time favorite Kuh Ledesma classics.

Aside from preparing for her Casino Filipino concert, Kuh is also busy with several other commitments, including another US tour in October, a follow-up to her recent successful "Power of Two" concert with Basil Valdez. She is also slated to hold a major concert at the PICC, with another diva before the end of the year.

On the recording front, Kuh is busy working on her new album, the gospel/R&B flavored "Walking on Water."

A first in the recording scene, Kuh's new album fuses the traditional sounds of gospel with the more contemporary beats of R and B.

For tickets to "Kuh Ledesma: By Special Arrangement," call Live Artists Production at 920-2643 or 0918-922-1542.

Rico J concerts

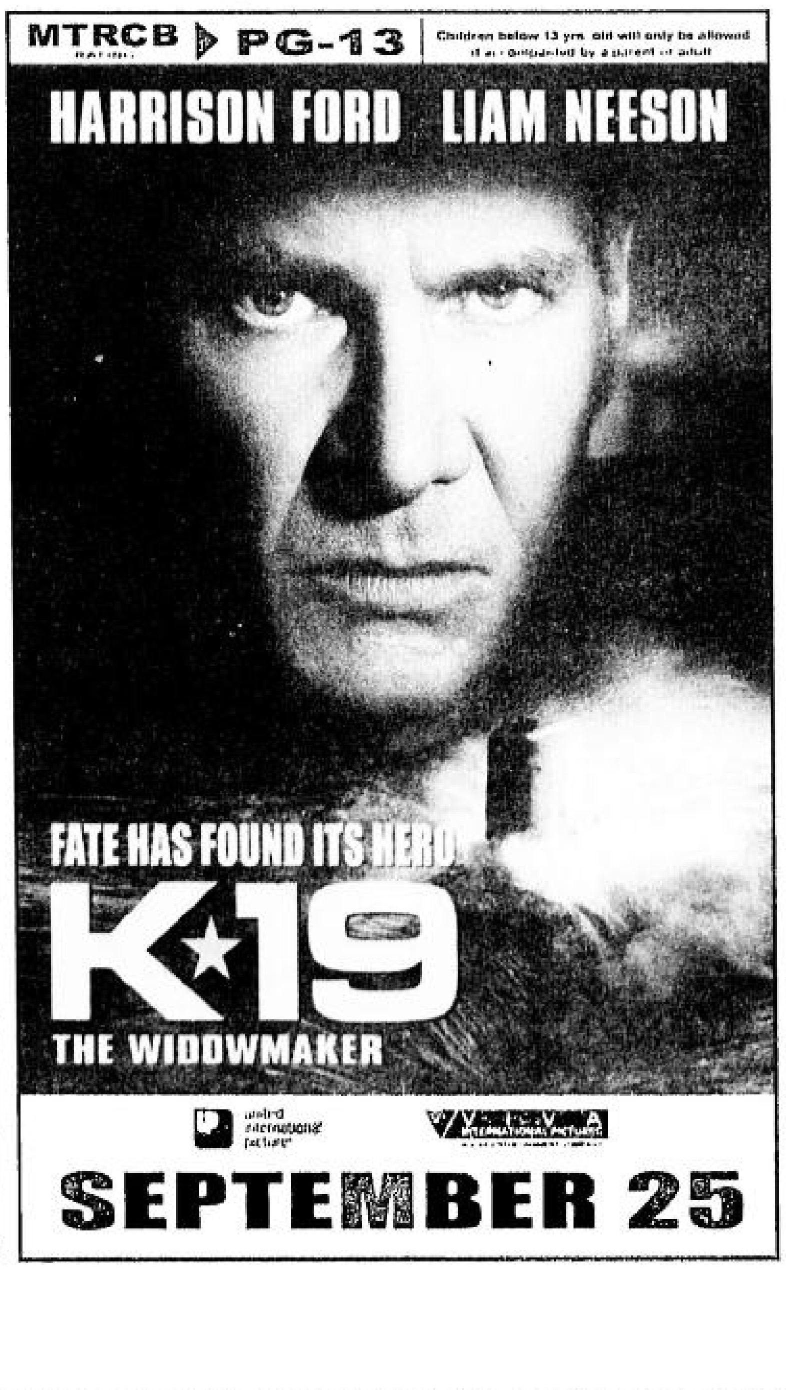
RICO J. Puno is still the "Total Entertainer" after all these years. He remains one of the busiest performers in the industry today, with a calendar filled with live concerts.

He just finished a full-house show Onstage in Makati and another concert in Cebu.

This October, Rico J goes back to Music Museum in a nostalgia of songs, sharing the stage with Hajji Alejandro and Rey on Oct. 4, 5 and 19. The Music Museum shows are produced by Viva Entertainment and directed by Roxanne Lapuz.

Oct. 18, Rico J has a solo concert at the Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom, produced by Six in the City, six of Rico's trusted friends. Sharing the stage with Rico J. is Viva

KUH /A30



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REIGN OF FIRE **P13** 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:55,10:00	**BOURNE IDENTITY** **P13** 12:00,2:20,4:40, 7:10,9:40	**ROAD TO PERDITION** **P13** 11:50,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10

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7:15, 9:50
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FREESTYLE IN SAN PABLO CITY
Freestyle Band is set to conquer San Pablo, Laguna, with a concert on Saturday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m. at the Aquino Stadium of Laguna State Polytechnic College. "Freestyle Live in San Pablo City" is sponsored by Smart Simply Amazing, McDonald's, Chowking-Ultimart, Greenwich, Montana Drinking Water, STI College, Audio Video Mobile, Celestron Cable, Kabalikat Angel AM Radio and 94.3 Lovely FM Radio. The band is composed of vocalist-rhythm guitarist Top Suzara, lead vocalist Jinky Vidal, lead guitarist Tat Suzara, bassist Carlo Tapia, drummer Gerd Banzon and keyboardist Nikki Cabardo. Proceeds of the show will go to DSWD's Center for Welfare and Protection Fund for Children.

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SangkatuTEXT
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TALK 'N TEXT

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2) To answer, type <answer> and send to 2868. A correct answer will give you one (1) raffle entry. The more questions you answer correctly, the more points you get and the higher the chances of winning.
3) Cut-off time for sending entries will be at 12 midnight.
4) Winners shall be notified via phone call and registered mail. To claim their prize, winners may go to the nearest Smart Wireless Center and present the ff:
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    -Cellular phone
    -Letter of Notification
5) Prizes not claimed after 60 days from date of notification will be forfeited. Cellphone prizes are not convertible to cash.
6) In the event of a conflict as to the correctness of the answer to any question, the answers in file, which are based on extensive research by SMART Communications, Inc., PILTEL, BIDSHOT Wireless Services, Inc., and their advertising agencies will be considered the correct answer.
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*** Promo period is from September 22 - December 15, 2002.**

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- **PTS** - to check the number of entries you sent
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- **ON** - to turn on your daily reminder
- **RULES** - to get game rules

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BUSINESS
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Gov't readies sale of Meralco stake, IS property

By Clarissa S. Batino

TIRED of waiting for the market to fully recover, the government has asked the Privatization Management Office to prepare for the bidding of its 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. and the sale of a prime property in Makati used to be occupied by the International School.

"Sometimes you just have to accept the mark-to-market price and bite the bullet instead of always waiting for a good price," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

CAMACHO

The finance secretary, who chairs the inter-agency privatization council, said the group agreed in its meeting last Friday to start preparing for the bidding of the 10-percent stake in Meralco as well as the property used to be occupied by the IS.

The Makati prime lot is worth about P1 billion and the local government, according to Camacho, had sent feelers that it was interested in buying the property.

"We are also preparing for the bidding of the IS property but without prejudice to the Makati City which may want to buy it. I haven't met with the local officials yet," the finance chief said.

Two years ago, Meralco shares were worth about P9 billion but with the decline in share prices, the government's stake in Meralco was now only worth about P4 billion.

Like other government assets slated for divestment, the Meralco shares have been on the auction list since the time of Ramos.

"We have asked the PMO staff to start preparing for the possible bidding of the Meralco shares which we can even do within the year, as soon as the ERC (Energy Regulatory Commission) rules on Meralco's rate hike petition," Camacho said.

The country's largest electricity distributor controlled by the Lopez family is seeking an average rate hike of P1.12 per kilowatt-hour from the ERC. The regulator was scheduled to decide on the petition last June but had moved a self-imposed deadline supposedly this month.

Camacho explained that the government has to wait for the ERC decision because the value of the Meralco shares was uncertain until the rate hike petition has been decided with finality.

"We are preparing for a more straightforward sale of Meralco. We want to bid it as a block," he said.

Of the 10-percent stake, about 16.7 million shares were being held by the Office of the President, 3 million shares are with the national government and 45 million shares are with the Asset Trust Privatization.

Meralco distributes electricity to 3.3 million, mostly residential, customers in Metro Manila and parts of Bulacan and Batangas.

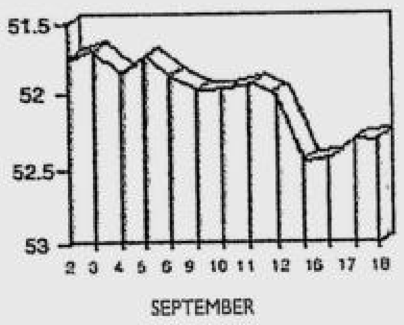
The electric utility is controlled by the Lopez family through subsidiaries like First Philippine Holdings Corp., Benpres Holdings, and Lopez Foundation.

The Lopez family, which has interests in power generation, media, cable network, telecommunications, water, and infrastructure, accounts for close to 30 percent of Meralco while the government reportedly has about 20 percent.

Spanish firm Union Fenosa Acex now holds close to 10 percent of the company. The charter of Meralco provided that only the Lopez family can own more than 10 percent in Meralco.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P52.475 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 20, 2002

¥123.84 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 20, 2002

GOLD: $322.30 - 322.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 20, 2002

Sept. 20, 2002

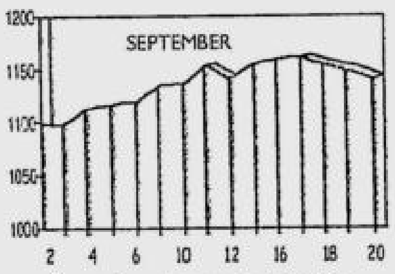
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.013171	1.000000	52.2540
Japan	Yen	0.008355	0.008246	0.4309
United Kingdom	Pound	1.576494	1.556000	81.3072
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129904	0.128215	6.6997
Switzerland	Franc	0.683651	0.674764	35.2591
Canada	Dollar	0.643692	0.635324	33.1982
Singapore	Dollar	0.572964	0.565515	29.5504
Australia	Dollar	0.558159	0.550903	28.7869
Bahrain	Dinar	2.688170	2.653224	138.6416
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270172	0.266660	13.9341
Brunei	Dollar	0.571348	0.563920	29.4671
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023584	0.023277	1.2163
UAE	Dirham	0.275880	0.272294	14.2285
Korea	Won	0.000844	0.000833	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987000	51.5747
Argentina	Real	0.279110	0.275482	14.3950
Brazil	Real	0.297992	0.294118	15.3688
Denmark	Kroner	0.134591	0.132841	6.9415
India	Rupee	0.020959	0.020687	1.0810
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266624	0.263158	13.7511
Mexico	New Peso	0.099535	0.098241	5.1335
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481156	0.474901	24.8155
Norway	Kroner	0.135879	0.134113	7.0079
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017143	0.016920	0.8841
South Africa	Rand	0.096321	0.095069	4.9677
Sweden	Kroner	0.109829	0.108401	5.6644
Syria	Pound	0.022922	0.022624	1.1822
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029359	0.028977	1.5142
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000696	0.000687	0.0359

STOCK MARKET

Consolidation seen

LOCAL stocks are seen to continue consolidating this week as the upside potential is being capped by a string of uncertainties such as the volatility of Wall Street, the threats of a US strike against Iraq and the fragile fiscal position of the national government.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

After three consecutive weeks of trading in the black, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dipped by 1.09 percent or 12.62 points last week to close at 1,142.87 on Friday.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, said: "Sentiments were dampened by the fall in Wall Street and further magnified by the government's ballooning budget deficit, which now stands at P144.3 billion as of end-August. Investors remain mindful of the tensions in the Middle East."

Chartwise, Ravelas noted that the market was encountering some resistance near the 1,150-1,160 levels.

"Expect some support to emerge near the 1,120-1,130.00 levels. These levels should hold for the market to maintain a bullish picture in the near-term," Ravelas said.

"Failure of the market to hold within the said support levels could call for further losses toward the 1,090-1,100 levels," he said.

CONSOLIDATION /B6

SEC-registered foreign investments up 18.87%

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOREIGN direct investments in the country rose 18.87 percent to P1.567 billion in the first half of this year from P1.317 billion in the same period last year as investment commitments began to materialize, documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission showed.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista attributed the higher investment to the country's good economic performance in the first half and to a more stable peso-dollar exchange rate.

"Also, the large investments registered with the Board of Investments last year started to come in this year," Bautista said.

Foreign direct investments registered with the SEC refer to actual investments while BOI-registered investments were planned investments.

Bautista noted that foreign direct investments usually flowed to the industrial sector and based on the economic figures, domestic industry had been recovering in the first half of this year.

The country's gross domestic product grew 3.8 percent in the first quarter and 4.5 percent in the second quarter, with industry, particularly the manufacturing sector, making a dramatic rebound.

The Philippines is expected to post a GDP growth of 4 to 4.5 percent for the whole year this year from last year.

According to the SEC, the top foreign investors were the Japanese with P480.2 million in investments, accounting for 30.67 percent of the total for the first half of this year.

Investments from the People's Republic of China reached P270.3 million, equivalent to 17.26 percent or the second largest slice of the investment pie, while Singapore investments came in third at P102.5 million or a 6.35-percent share.

Most of the investments in the first half came in the first quarter at P889.8 million, 9.89 percent higher than the P801 million recorded in the first quarter last year. The second quarter investments were lower than the previous quarter at P676 million but were 30.9 percent higher than the P516 million recorded for the same period last year.

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Gov't to get ₱1B from Philphos sale

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE CASH-STRAPPED Macapagal administration expects a P1-billion relief from the last installment from the sale of the government's 50-percent stake in Philippine Phosphate Fertilizer Corp. it sold last year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the P1-billion payment to be made out of maturing letters-of-credit issued by Delphi Holdings to the government would come in as revenues in November.

"This was not part of the program and would definitely help beef up our revenues," the finance chief said.

Delphi Holdings is a joint venture of businessman Jose Alvarez and the Nauru government, which owns half of the fertilizer company. The 50-percent interest in Philphos was sold for P3 billion on a staggered-payment basis.

Philphos is the biggest and only phosphate fertilizer manufacturing in the country and is one of the two plants owned by the Republic of Nauru in Asia. Nauru is the world's biggest phosphate exporter.

The company's Iligan plant produces up to 80,000 metric tons a year of phosphate.

Camacho said the P1-billion proceeds from the Philphos sale would be booked as part of the privatization earnings this year and would help the government meet its revised privatization target of P3 billion from only a little over P500 million as of August.

In 2003, the finance secretary said the government would aggressively sell idle state assets to raise sufficient funds to finance expenditure items not covered by the proposed budget for next year.

Aside from the P2-billion privatization target next year, the government would like to raise an additional P15-billion from the sale of assets. To help achieve this objective, the finance department would hire another undersecretary who would focus on divestment of state assets.

Camacho said he was already talking with a candidate for the slot but declined to name the person.

Aside from the assets lodged with the Privatization Management Office that have not been sold, the government would try to sell next year the state-owned houses along Cabinet Hills in Baguio, the presidential yacht "Ang Pangulo", and a large parcel of land adjacent to the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa.

"We would like to generate more funds because any additional revenues on top of the P2-billion target from privatization would be used to finance the unprogrammed expenditures," Camacho said.

This early, Camacho said he had asked the finance department to conduct an inventory of all government properties and their valuation.

"The government has two properties in New York, one in San Francisco, one in Sydney, and also in Bangkok. We also have properties in Japan. In line with the inventory is the move to rationalize the use of properties among government agencies," he said.

Camacho said part of rationalizing the use of government properties would be for the

GOVERNMENT/B4

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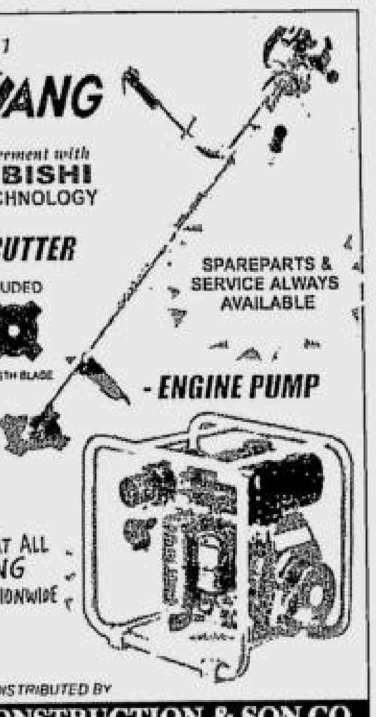

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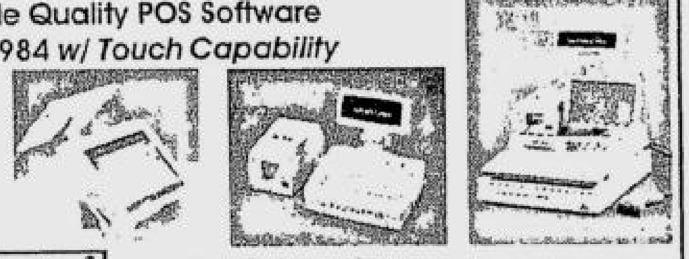

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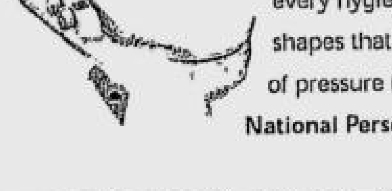

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SM invests ₱223M in e-ventures

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

RETAIL king Henry Sy has jumped on the outsourced contact center bandwagon by investing P222.7 million in a call center facility in Metro Manila.

Sy's SM eVentures Inc. has obtained pioneer incentives from the Board of Investments as a new information technology service sector with its call center project.

Based on its application with the BOI, SM eVentures would target American companies eyeing to get offshore third party providers to handle their customer relationship management services.

SM eVentures plans to provide both inbound and outbound customer care, e-commerce customer support and telemarketing with customer interaction to be coursed through phone, web callback, chat, e-mail and fax.

SM eVentures is the IT arm of the retail and property-based SM group and it develops and runs the e-business enterprises and initiatives of the SM group such as SM Remit.com, SM eMall, and eDigisafe Certificate Authority.

SM eVentures is part of the Construction Vertical of the Philippines (a vertical portal dedicated to the logistics requirements of the construction industry) composed of Alinet.com Inc. of Ayala Land Inc., Summit Internet Investments of JG Summit, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. of PLDT/Metro Pacific Group, Greenfield Development Corp. of United Laboratories Inc., EEI Corp. of Yuchengco Group, and D.M. Consunji Inc.

The BOI had earlier estimated that there were 40 call centers operating in the Philippines and that the government expect the number to double to 80 by next year due to a surge in demand from American companies that

SM /B4

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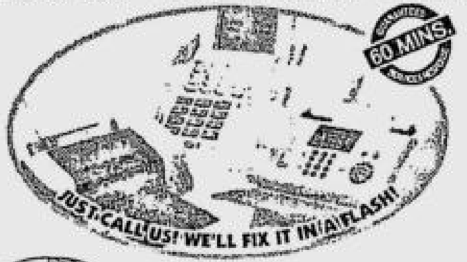
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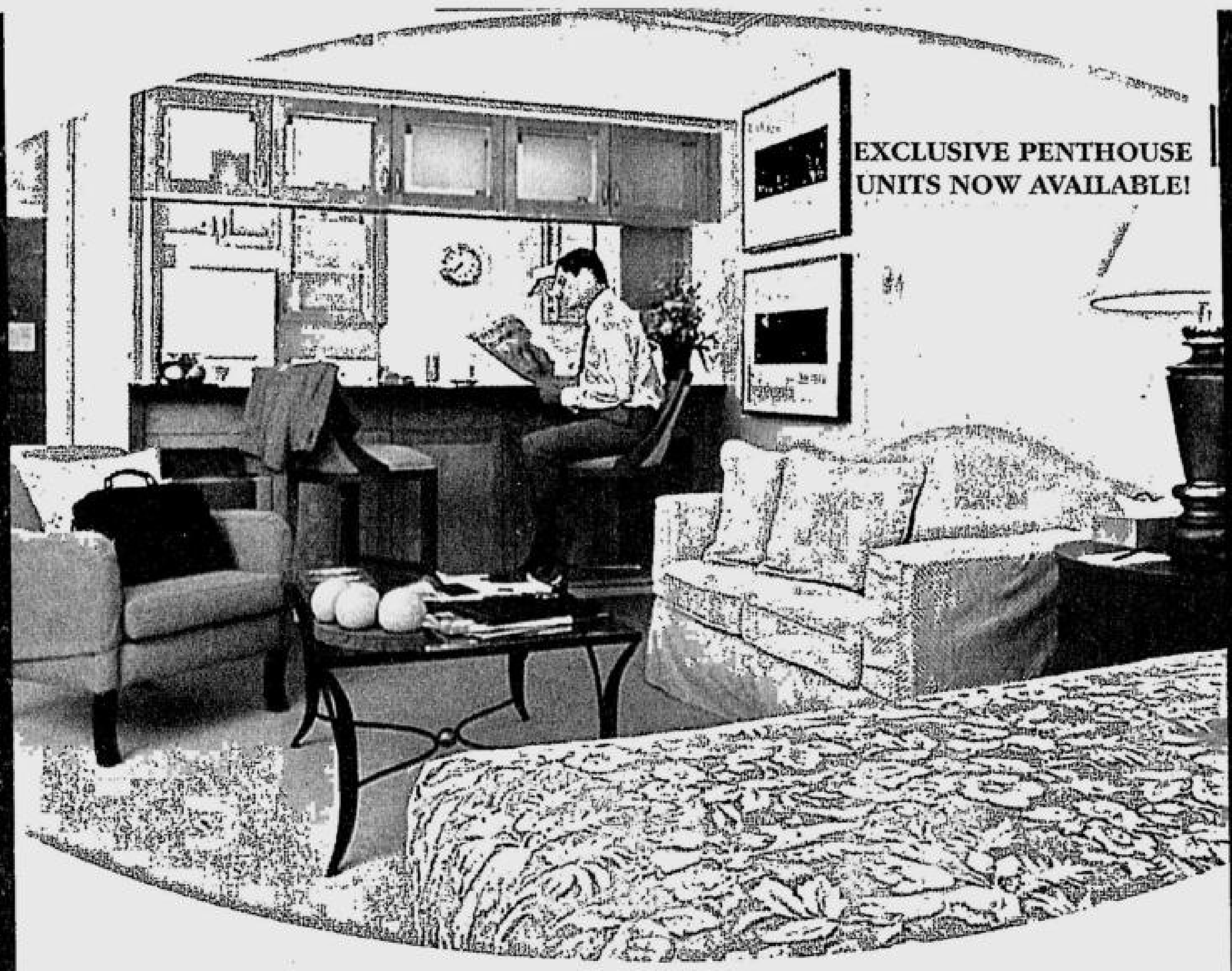

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PSE in talks to link up with Shanghai bourse

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is considering a new cross-border trading arrangement with the Shanghai Stock Exchange to diversify the products currently available to local investors.

In an interview, PSE president Ernest Leung told the INQUIRER that some PSE officials were talking with their counterparts in China to explore the possibility of a cross-border trading arrangement that would allow Filipino investors to buy shares of stocks listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Leung stressed, however, that there were a lot of issues that would have to be resolved before an agreement could be finalized.

"There are interests in trying to do that, but I always go back and say: 'What's the (country's) fundamental? Are we a capital-surplus or a capital-deficient country?'" Leung stressed.

"If we are a capital-surplus country, then it will open up many things and attract our surplus capital into better yields. If we are a deficit country, we should be bringing to our country more capital to cover the deficit. These are ways of looking at things," Leung said.

He added that the timing would be crucial in working out a cross-border trading arrangement with Shanghai.

"China has a lot of surplus," Leung said. "My colleagues are currently looking into this."

Shanghai is a leading industrial center in mainland China.

Its stock exchange has been undergoing a lot of reforms to ease its restrictions and attract more investors.

NEW LOAN
MWSS Administrator Orlando Hondrade (left) and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho (middle) sign a $100-million loan agreement from Deutsche Bank AG. The loan will be used by the government to pay off its financial obligations. Also present is Deutsche Bank representative Eric Cruz (right). Looking on are some key staff of the MWSS. Deutsche Bank is one of several investment banks helping the MWSS raise cash to meet its obligations.

GMA backs stronger tariff barriers

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has come out in favor of stronger tariff barriers and a slowdown to globalization in a meeting with a protectionist group on Saturday, her spokesperson said.

"The President said the time for unbridled globalization is over," her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye said, after she met with the group called the Unfair Trade Alliance, a group led by leftist ex-Sen. Wigberto Tañada, a longtime critic of efforts to open the Philippine economy.

"Her emphasis in the meeting calls for a review of existing tariffs," Bunye said.

"Your President will not be the president to turn off lights in the factories. Your President will fight for jobs and industries," Bunye added.

He did not specify how tariffs would be changed but quoted Ms Macapagal as saying that "this is one area where she agreed," with her critics like former ally Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Guingona, who broke away from Ms Macapagal in July, has been critical of the government's economic liberalization policies, once even leading a rally at the trade department where protesters accused the government of abandoning local industries.

Ms Macapagal, an economist, had originally been a proponent of economic liberalization but in recent weeks she has been calling for a renewed focus on the domestic market instead of the export sector.

In her weekly radio address earlier Saturday, Ms Macapagal said, "we should strengthen our domestic economy because we cannot always rely on the export market." She said she would encourage small and medium enterprises with P1-million loans to certain towns who specialize in key products.

The President did not specify how much the loans would amount to.

Tañada earlier said that the tariff reductions under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (Afta-CEPT) did not cause significant inflow of foreign direct investments to Afta countries, contrary to claims of the US-Asean Business Council and some local economists.

Tañada cited recent studies commissioned by the Japan Center for Economic Research which concluded that trade and foreign investment effects of Afta "have not been as strong as the theory of a free trade area predicts."

The study, authored by Tran Van Tho, professor of economics at the Waseda University in Tokyo, noted that while intra-Asean trade has expanded, Asean trade with non-partner countries in East Asia has expanded at a higher rate.

SM invests ₱223M in e-ventures

From page B3

are cutting down costs through outsourcing.

The Contact Federation of the Philippines said the Philippines has a slight edge over current and potential offshore call center leaders India and China because of the Filipino's ability to deliver quality services and cultural affinity with Americans.

Gov't to get ₱1B from Philphos sale

From page B2

gencies to coordinate the use of state-owned assets.

For instance, the National Housing Authority has asked the privatization office to use the government's property in Davao for housing. But the pieces of property were not contiguous and Camacho said they only found out that the Bureau of Internal Revenue owned a piece of land that would connect the huge property.

"I have asked one of my undersecretaries to start the inventory and I gave him a timetable of two months," Camacho said.

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Ionics feels pressure to move to China

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE IONICS group of companies, the Philippines' biggest subcontract assembler of electronic products, is under increasing pressure from its customers to relocate its facilities to China and get a foothold in one of the world's biggest markets.

Ionics chair and CEO Lawrence C. Qua said that while there had been pressure since 1995 for the company to go to China, "the pressure has become even more intense this year after China joined the WTO."

Qua said their clients—which included computer giants IBM, Fujitsu and NEC—have set their sights on tapping the huge and potent Mainland market and they wanted their suppliers to be close at hand when they step up their market penetration.

Qua said that despite China's agreement to dismantle its wall of trade barriers with its WTO seat, it was still difficult to bring in imports to China. "You have to be inside to be able to tap their markets," Qua said.

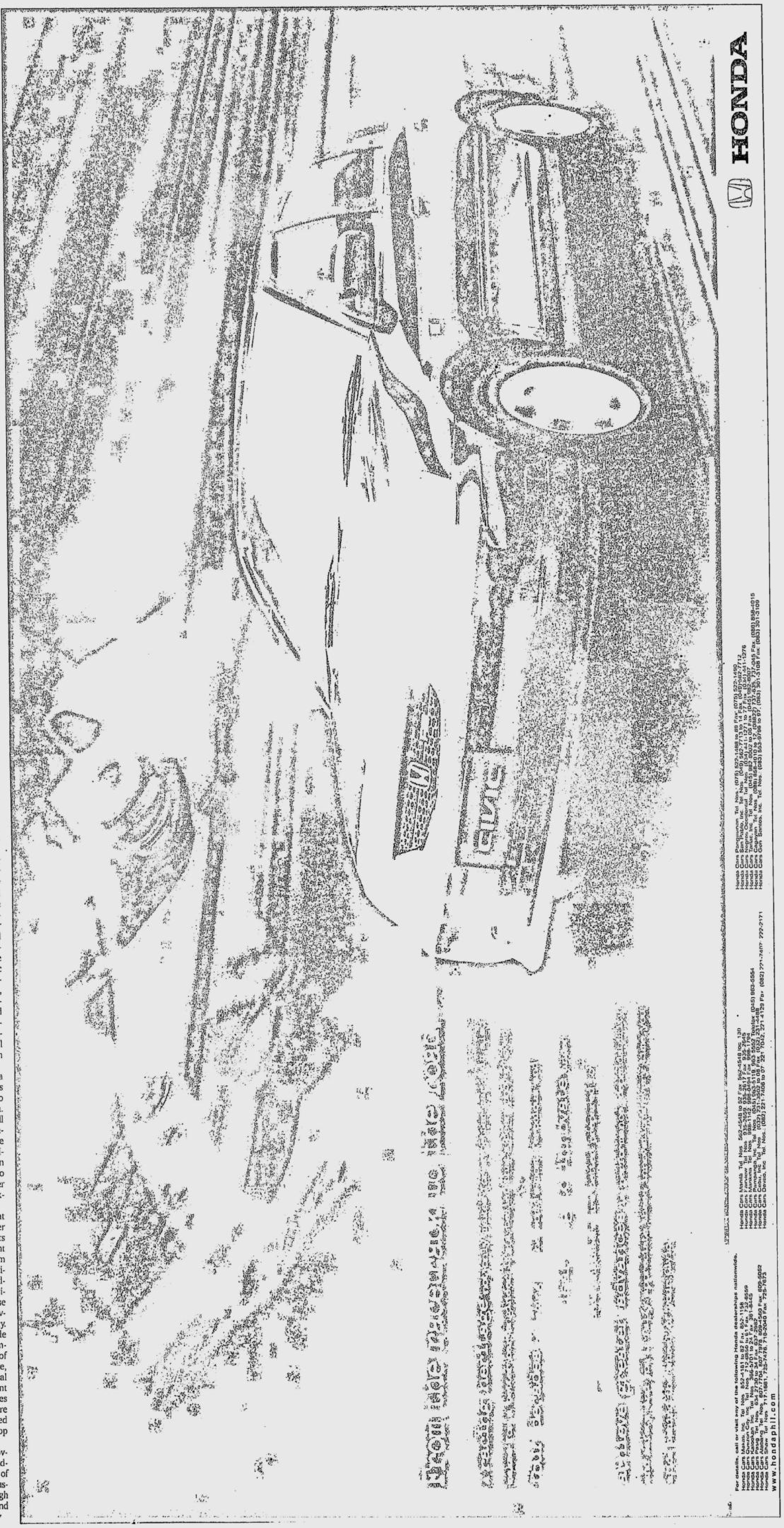
Qua said that other players in the electronics industry have either relocated to China or merely maintained their current level of operations in the country because China has become more attractive to them than Asean.

Ionics started out as a semiconductor and hybrid assembly company in 1974 and it is now one of the leading contract electronics manufacturer specializing in printed circuit board assembly (PCBA). Its core turnkey electronic manufacturing services arm, Ionics EMS, has seven plants in Laguna and is listed among the 10 Philippine electronics exporters with annual exports of more than $1 billion.

So far, however, Qua said he has resisted his clients' clamor to go with the herd in China. "If you ask me, I still want to stay here because I believe that we can compete with China if we can move on from mere assembly to production of other parts involved in making computer chips."

Qua explained that while China did offer cheap labor costs (about half of current Philippine minimum wage levels), businessmen were finding it hard to do business in China because of its infamous government bureaucracy. Qua said that while there might be complaints on the state of our government here, "it is easier to deal with the government in the Philippines than in China" where rules were changed on the whims of top officials.

Qua said the government should address the concerns of the electronics industry such as the high cost of power and problems on security



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MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THERE is a movie coming to your cinema next month. Don't miss MEN IN BLACK 3, starring Tommy Lee Jones and Gloria Macapagal.

I am relieved that Mr. Ledesma got his two children back, safe and sound, but there is no way to avert a determined kidnap gang. What could a bodyguard do against four ruthless, heavily armed men? My wife wants everyone to know that if I am kidnapped, she will not pay more than P500 ransom. "At your age, and in your condition, you are not worth more than that," she told me. Incidentally, I keep saying "BEEP" but nothing happens, except that my wife keeps answering the telephone.

My next door neighbor is so unlucky. He bought a suit with an extra pair of pants, then burned a hole in the jacket. Next day, his plastic goldfish died.

The government had a Road Show, which was televised, and this had a positive effect on the market. However, its effects were short term, and what is needed is a reform of our stock market. The PSE and the SEC have made many proposals in the past, but they have never been implemented. Now that the market is about to expire through lack of interest, it is time to implement these measures and others as well.

But the government must also play its part and I would like to make a number of suggestions. None of these are controversial or new, so it is just a matter of putting them into effect. First, the government needs about 10 large, profitable companies to be listed next year. We can rely on Shoemart Inc., Caltex Philippines and Shell Philippines. The 49-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas project would undoubtedly invoke interest, so the PNOC stake should be made through an IPO, and not a private placing.

The government needs to privatize more of its profitable assets even if it means absorbing some of the debt. The funds generated will help reduce borrowing requirements but the companies must be of sufficient size to interest foreign investors. As my wife is always telling me, size does matter. They should also remove the 4-percent tax on IPOs, if they have not already done so.

Now to the SEC/PSE, which three years ago, ordered all companies to amalgamate A and B shares into one class, and to convert shares with a par value of 1 centavo into shares of P1 through a reverse split, just as EBECOM has just done. The penalties announced then were a P50,000 fine and delisting after 30 days. AC complied almost immediately, declassifying its A and B shares into one class, and was eventually followed by FPH. But the real target was the moribund oil and mining sector, with its proliferation of worthless stocks, which rarely trade.

The oil sector said they would make the Philippines self-sufficient in oil by 2000. All they ever discovered were commercial quantities of seawater. As for the mining sector, all the companies have just reported losses, even though gold has risen $60 an ounce. Neither sector took the SEC/PSE warning seriously nor did they comply. To date, thee years later, none of them have been fined or delisted. They just laughed at the authorities and got away with it. The SEC/PSE must command respect, otherwise it is not a governing body, and for this reason alone, they should insist on reviving these demands and exacting the penalties. They should also take a leaf out of Wall Street and delist all companies falling below a certain level of capitalization. This will get rid of all these hangers-on, who are hoping to be taken over as a backdoor listing. This practice should also be stopped. What is MUSX doing in the PHISIX? If it went limit up every day for a week, it would not have any effect on the index.

One reason that public interest has dried up is the BW scam, which was not punished as it should have been. Many brokers escaped with fines of P5,000. Another reason is that the transaction costs are among the highest in the world, and in a market, which has no volume or volatility, this is a major deterrent. Apparently, the PSE is considering abolishing the sales tax and the documentary stamp for a period of 2 years. This would be a big help, as it would reduce dealing costs by about 50 percent. Do you know that if you buy say UP at 4 centavos as a speculation, the documentary stamp will cost you 37 times more than the broker's commission? Here is what your invoice would look like:

1,000,000 UP @ 0.04	P 40,000
Commission at 0.50%	P200
V.A.T.	P 20
Documentary stamp	P 7,500
Total cost	P 47,720

This absurd anomaly arises because the sales tax and commission are calculated on the value of the stock, whereas the documentary stamp is 0.75 percent of its par value. So the more a stock falls below par, the more expensive the documentary stamp becomes. If UP falls to 1 centavo, the documentary stamp will be 150 times the broker's commission. Is this sensible? If the SEC/PSE want to bring back the sales tax after 2 years, so be it, but not the iniquitous documentary stamp.

Another thing they might consider is to abolish par value. The Americans don't need it, why do we? It has no advantages but definite, disadvantages. For example, let us suppose you bought a stock for P1, its par value, and it did well, rising to P2. It gives a 50-percent stock dividend, which reduces the price to P1.34. The market declines and the shares fall to 90 centavos. Then along comes a fantastic opportunity to buy some cheap land for later development, or to make an acquisition.

How can the company raise money? The banks will not lend on land or property because of their non-performing loans. The company cannot have a rights issue, which is the obvious way, because its shares have fallen below P1, and the law specifies that no company may issue shares below par. So it misses a wonderful opportunity just because of this rule. If it had not given a stock dividend, the shares would have been at P1.35, and a rights issue at par would have been possible. So, once a company's shares fall below its par value, it cannot make a rights issue, or issue shares at market to make an acquisition. Le us get rid of par. As far as I can see, it is only useful to golfers.

As always, you can contact mrbearbull@hotmail.com.

Ayala allots $500M for Globe expansion program until 2004

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AYALA group plans to limit capital spending for core subsidiary Globe Telecom to $500 million for the next two years, as the bulk of infrastructure needed to build up its network had been completed in previous years.

Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said in a recent roadshow presentation that capital spending for Globe would henceforth be significantly lower than in previous years.

"This will allow us to bring down our capex-to-revenue ratio which peaked in 2000 down considerably and should be in line with other regional carriers," Zobel de Ayala said.

Globe Telecom's capex-over-service revenue stood at 98.9 percent in 1999, then surged to 114.2 percent in 2000 and dipped to 97 percent in 2001. As of the second quarter of this year, the ratio has gone down to 56 percent.

As of the first semester of this year, Zobel de Ayala said Globe Telecom had spent $220 million in capital expenditures and had committed another $206 million for the rest of the year.

"Globe remains committed to maintaining the quality of its service by continuously expanding and upgrading its network infrastructure to keep pace with the company's fast growth and the increasing demands of our customers," he said.

Nearly 2,000 Globe Telecom cell sites are currently in place, with capacity for 5.7 million subscribers.

"By year-end, we estimate that we will have sufficient capacity for 6.9 million subscribers," Zobel de Ayala said.

Combined with second brand Touch Mobile, Globe Telecom's total subscriber base exceeded 5.4 million as of end-June this year.

The company has maintained its dominance of the high-end market with 84 percent of all postpaid subscribers while prepaid market share has also improved to 42 percent in June from 41 percent in March, he said.

"More importantly, while Globe accounted for 44 percent of total wireless subscribers, its share of total wireless revenues is much higher at 54 percent," Zobel de Ayala said.

"Moving forward, Globe will continue to expand its subscriber base by tapping growth opportunities outside Metro Manila, where penetration levels in many areas are still low. Having said that, Globe is equally focused on maintaining its profitability, largely through the introduction of additional value added services," he explained.

Sual power station passes ISO audit

MIRANT Philippines Corp. announced Friday that its Sual power station in Sual, Pangasinan, has passed the ISO 14001 Certification audit conducted by the Geneva-based SGS Group for its Environmental Management System (EMS).

The ISO 14001 Certification audit is an environmental management system that aids organizations to push for continual improvement in environmental management. It is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). International standards covering environmental management are intended to provide organizations with the elements of an effective EMS, which can be integrated with other management requirements, to assist organizations to achieve environmental and economic goals.

"Passing the ISO 14001 Certification puts Sual Power Station beyond the compliance required under the Clean Air Act," said Joseph Sullivan, Sual station manager. "This also demonstrates Mirant's commitment to meet and even exceed the country's environmental regulations, noting that the Clean Air Act does not even require us to be ISO certified."

Mirant's Sual plant underwent a very rigorous process before it passed the audit review. Part of the stringent process was a clear demonstration that an effective EMS was in place through its environmental policy.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, September 20, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	320,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47.5	47	47	617,500
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	8,230
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	160,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35	34.5	34.5	102,500
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	35,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	150	150	150	150	20
Manulife Financial Corp.	1120	1120	1090	1100	170
Sun Life Financial Serv.	870	880	870	875	450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	23.25	22.5	22.5	7,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.55	0.52	0.53	1,110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	500	500	497.5	497.5	7,150
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	100,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	710,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co	292.5	292.5	287.5	292.5	70,210
Ivantage Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	19,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	1,000
Manila Electric Co. B	31.5	32	31.5	32	209,400
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.62	152,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	3,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.48	2.44	2.48	360,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	90,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	63,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.44	0.66	0.44	0.66	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	108,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	57,900
RFM Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53	54	809,700
San Miguel Corp. B	56	56.5	56	56.5	656,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,430,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	2,332,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	3,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	36,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.245	1,620,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.15	390,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	12,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	318,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	13.5	13	13	1,224,500
House of Investments Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Ionics Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.25	39,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	0.85	1.26	0.85	1.26	4,000
Megaworld Corp	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,590,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,990,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	40,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	3,000
MANUFACTURING. DISTRI- & TRADING BUTION					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	25	25	25	25	300
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	3,000
Pryce Corp.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	1,100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	250,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	540,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	218,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	10,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4	4	4	4	17,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	3,655,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	190,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.165	0.175	190,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	1,938,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	150,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	95,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5,690,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	3,100,000
MINING					
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	90,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.27	0.43	0.27	0.43	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	139,164,970	6,725,791,200.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	42,314,660	155,087,700.00
PRO	15,568,000	56,073,040.00
Mining	140,000	42,900.00
OIL	2,090,000	35,600.00
GRAND TOTALS	199,467,630	6,937,579,190.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	453.78	DOWN 1.36
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,567.47	DOWN 6.90
PRO	508.41	DOWN 6.06
Mining	1,096.25	UP 2.37
OIL	1.31	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	622.47	DOWN 8.49
Composite	1,142.87	DOWN 6.16

NO. OF ADVANCES: 17; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 96; NO. OF TRADES: 1,286

Consolidation seen

From page B1

BPI Securities said the market might benefit from some bargain-hunting this week, but any gain would likely be short-lived as suggested by the low volumes and the lack of broad-based support.

Immediate resistance is at 1,170 and support still at 1,140 and then at 1,100, it noted.

"Foreign funds, although having reversed and shifted to a net buying position, had concentrated buying on a few issues. Broad market support remains lacking," it said.

"However, the market's recent strength does suggest nascent support, which may resurface as the index tests intermediate supports," it said.

Stock market portal Philstocks.net agreed that market sentiment was expected to remain cautious due to the dearth of fresh local leads.

"Investors are expected to wait for a healthy correction on select issues, before resuming their buying activities. Most stocks seem more adrift rather than in a trend," it said.

Due to the lack of fresh incentives in the domestic arena, Philstocks.net said investors would focus a lot more on the developments in the Middle East and on the health of the US economy.

Last week, for instance, the fall in the US stock markets was induced by the announcement of a decline in the US industrial production and housing.

"On balance, value turnover should remain thin, an indication of the cautious stance that has been prevailing for months now. Ongoing profit taking by short-term investors can be aggravated by negative sentiments that may emerge from abroad," Philstocks.net said.

However, it said downside risks appeared to be limited to the lows of August.

"We should be able to bounce off, thanks to the recent favorable economic numbers. But the economy is only one catalyst. Economic growth without corporate profit will not be enough to propel the market higher. Investors will want to have more visibility on corporate profits. With no major positive catalyst, there's no sense of urgency to be aggressive in the market," it said. *Doris Dumlao*

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[illegible]	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	500 000 00	-
[illegible]	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	100 000 00	Please call
[illegible]	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	415 000 00	360 000 00
[illegible]	EAGLE RIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	-	Please call
[illegible]	EAGLE RIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"	500 000 00	-
[illegible]	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	150 000 00	
9	FONTANA "D"	70 000 00	
10	FOREST HILLS GOLF "A"	200 000 00	
11	FOREST HILLS GOLF "C"	250 000 00	
12	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	Please call	-
13	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	750 000 00	Please call
14	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind)		10 500 000
15	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp)	Please call	11 000 000
[illegible]	MANILA POLO CLUB		2 700 000
17	MIMOSA (Ind)	125 000 00	-
18	MT. MALARAYAT "A"	350 000 00	
[illegible]	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30 000 00	-
[illegible]	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	-	Please call
[illegible]	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"		Please call
22	PUEBLO DE ORO	400 000 00	-
[illegible]	PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80 000 00	
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[illegible]	PUNTA FUEGO	650 000 00	
[illegible]	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	180 000 00	
[illegible]	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	230 000 00	
[illegible]	ROYALE TAGAYTAY "B"	110 000 00	
[illegible]	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	80 000 00	
[illegible]	[illegible]	150 000 00	Please call
[illegible]	SPA & LODGE	800 000 00	
[illegible]	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS		730 000 00
33	VALLEY GOLF CLUB		290 000 00
34	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	-	Please call
[illegible]	[illegible]	Please call	

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Canyonwoods		Please Call
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	175,000	220,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
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Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"		250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	225,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	280,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,450,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"		700,000
Manila Yacht Club		Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"		110,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		150,000
Mimosa (Individual)		140,000
Montemar (Individual)		35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego		Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	320,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"		1,850,000
Sta. Elena "B"		1,850,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	140,000	170,000
Valley Golf	280,000	330,000
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BAGUIO CC	730 000	CAMP JOHN HAY	250 000
CALATAGAN "A"	90,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	170 000
CAMP JOHN HAY	270 000	FONTANA "C"	Call now
CAPITOL HILLS	110 000	MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	11,000 000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	420 000	MANILA POLO	2,600 000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	12,000 000	MLA STHWOODS "A"	Call now
MANILA POLO	2,750 000	MT. MALARAYAT (CORP)	450 000
MLA STHWOODS "A"	Call now	STA. ELENA "B"	1,900 000
MLA STHWOODS "B"	630 000	TAGAYTAY HLANDS GOLF	800 000
ORCHARDGCC "A"	Call now	VALLE VERDE	140 000
RIVIERA GCC "A"	Call now	VALLEY GOLF	290 000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,850 000	WACK WACK GOLF	6 675 000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	830 000		
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CC AT TAGAYTAY	10 000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30 000
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FUND MANAGERS' ASSESSMENT

Sy entry opens new growth areas for San Miguel

THE RECENT acquisition of SM Investments Corp. of a minority stake in San Miguel Corp. has provided another platform for growth for San Miguel, according to the country's top securities firms.

The buy-in manifests investor confidence in San Miguel's management, they said.

Multinational fund manager CLSA Emerging Markets, for one, sees significant benefits to San Miguel's products and shareholders from the alliance of San Miguel chair and chief executive Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and retail tycoon Henry Sy of SM Investments.

"You have two industrialists who have seen the peak and trough of the Philippine economy and (who are) very knowledgeable on the changing lifestyle of the Filipino consumers," said CLSA, which upgraded its rating on San Miguel shares to "outperform."

Sy's San Miguel investment is also a "seal of good housekeeping" for Cojuangco and San Miguel management, it added.

JP Morgan, another large securities firm, said the transaction that would give SM Investments a seat in San Miguel's 15-man board was a very good indication that could spark the interest of foreign investors.

Maintaining a "buy" recommendation on San Miguel, JP Morgan noted that the deal was a very good way of showing that San Miguel's management would look after minority interests, especially since Sy had a reputation as a champion of corporate governance.

The purchase also comes at a time when San Miguel is poised for major profit growth in 2003, the securities firm added.

ABN-Amro also tagged a "buy" rating on San Miguel and set a target price of P70 per B share.

"The entry of Sy in San Miguel reflects a vote of confidence on the company and its management," it said.

Asiasec Equities, for its part, said operational synergies would allow San Miguel to tap into Sy's large retail network that included a nationwide chain of SM shopping malls and supermarkets. San Miguel has 89 facilities across the Philippines producing a wide range of consumer products, including beverages, poultry products, processed meat and dairy products.

"The broad scope of strong products possessed by San Miguel will be assured of premium shelf space in the major SM distribution channels," it said, as it maintained a "buy" recommendation on San Miguel shares.

Another fund manager, KGI Securities (Philippines) Inc., likewise sees the SM Investments deal as an opportunity for San Miguel to gain more exposure through SM's extensive retail network, and describes the buy-in as a "win-win situation."

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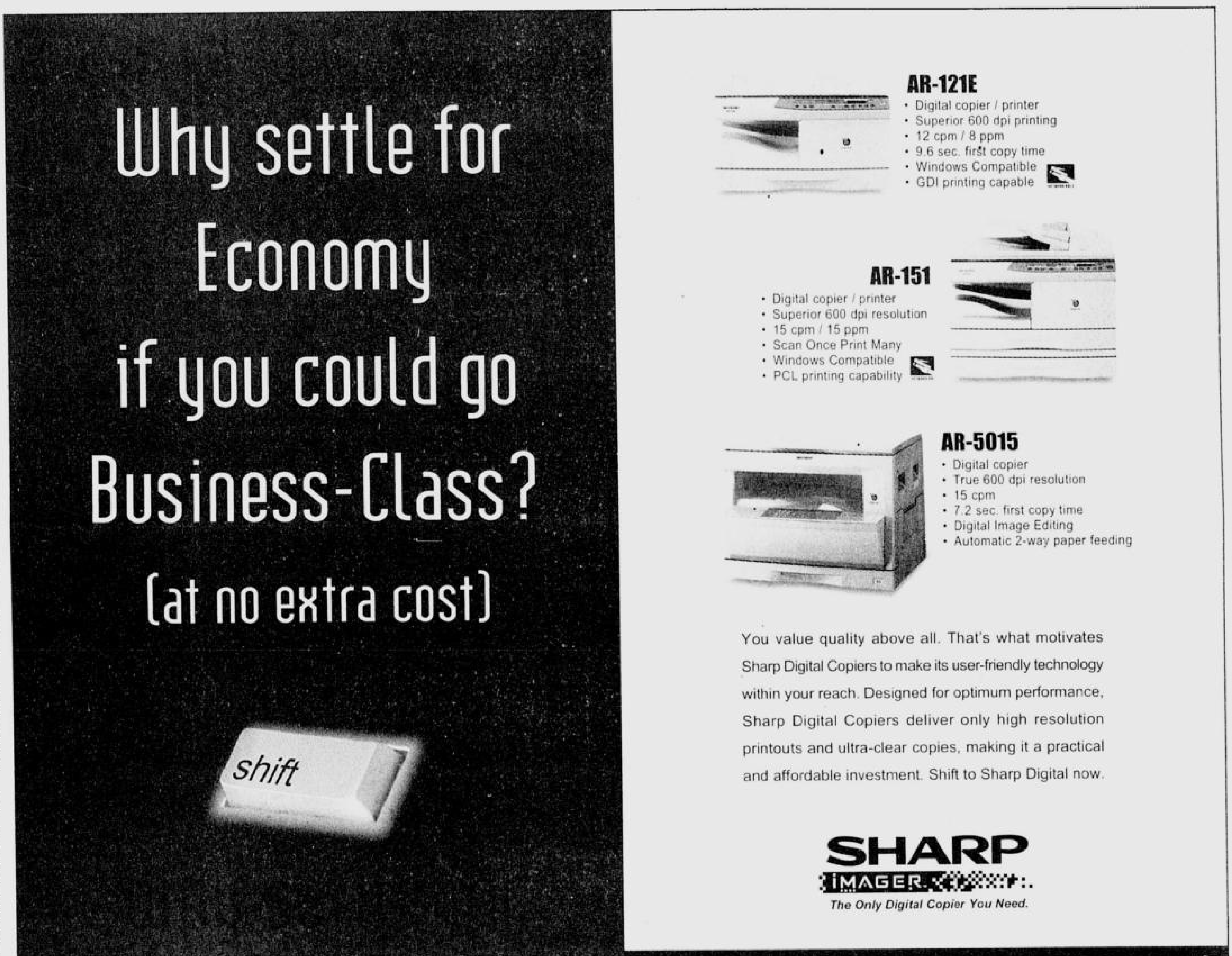

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

How shaky is the SSS?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

FOR the past several months, Corazon de la Paz , president and chief executive of the Social Security System, has been telling everyone within earshot that, unless its members' contributions are raised, the SSS will run out of money by 2015. It may be sooner than that.

Nowadays, contributions, plus investment income, are not enough to cover benefit payments, plus overhead. As a result, the SSS has to dig into its reserves. But how much are the reserves? More important, what is the quality of those reserves?

First, in the recently published 2001 annual report signed by De la Paz and SSS chair Bernardino Abes, total assets dropped for the first time in the 40-odd years of the SSS and by a whopping P17.3 billion from the year before.

To give you an idea of the enormity of this amount, if you were to spread P100 bills end-to-end and side-by-side, P17.3 billion would shield all of Metro Manila from the sun.

De la Paz explained this loss, almost cursorily, with two short sentences. Certainly, the members deserve a much more detailed explanation for the loss.

Second, the SSS is saddled with all those small loans—calamity, tuition, salary and what have you—from its members.

The total is nearing P30 billion and rising every year. Loan repayments are horrendously low. Many of the borrowers cannot be located, much less identified. Employers have either closed shop or have stopped collecting amortization.

Third, the SSS groans under P40 billion worth of low-cost housing loans.

Of this amount, P10 billion were lent to Pag-IBIG, which is having problems collecting from their low-cost housing buyers. The P30-billion balance was lent to the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp., another government firm that had gone bankrupt twice.

I hear the NHMC is trying to sell their receivables. The SSS will be lucky if it can get back from the NHMC 20 percent of this loan.

Fourth, there are the so-called paper losses. For example, in 1999, the SSS borrowed P7.5 billion in short-term money (nowhere in the world does an SSS borrow money, at whatever terms) to help Equitable Bank buy 72 percent of Philippine Commercial International Bank.

When the price of the merged stock started dropping at the exchange, the SSS bought another P7.5 billion more in stocks to stop the slide. It did not work. The ploy brought down the average purchase price from P97 to P86 a share. But this share is now trading at around P28 at the exchange.

The P10-billion loss is called a paper loss, meaning it is not recognized as a loss in the books until the shares are sold at a loss. But what keeps the value of the stock at P86 is nothing but hot air.

Finally, there are the investments in real estate, mostly condominium units. Bought before the current slump in the real estate business, these investments are a big drain on the cash flow.

The SSS is drowning in so much illiquidity in its assets one is forced to wonder how much longer can the SSS last.

But what bothers members most is that those who were responsible for ravaging the finance of the SSS are getting away without even a rap on the wrist.

To be fair, De la Paz and Abes cannot be blamed for the current financial problems. The small loans program has been there for the low-cost housing fiasco. The losses in equity and real estate investments are the fault of the Estrada administration.

Abes and De la Paz were expected to set things aright. It is true employees' bonuses and allowances have been cut. But, considering the enormity of the problem, this is first aid. What is needed is major surgery. But, it is becoming clear that Abes and De la Paz are not surgeons. (*More next week.*)

Fami appeals bike quota

THE FEDERATION of Asian Motorcycle Industries will appeal Vietnam's reduction of the importation of motorcycle production parts.

This was revealed by Fami president Dato Syed Mohamad Aidid during a news briefing during the group's three-day conference at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Based in Singapore and established in 1999, Fami has Japan, Taiwan, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines as members.

The federation prides itself in working towards the sound development of the motorcycle industry in Asia through fair trade and sharing of relevant information.

Vietnam's position of the quota raised strong concerns among Fami's members and was on top of the agenda of the recently concluded Fami conference in the Philippines.

Vietnam used to import about 2.5 million units of production parts annually.

With the implementation of the new quota, this number has been trimmed to about 1.5 million units, which may adversely affect the status of the entire motorcycle industry in Asia, including the Philippines.

Truck makers laud used vehicle ruling

THE TRUCK Manufacturers Association has hailed the government's decision to finally disallow the importation of used motor vehicles.

"On behalf of TMA, I would like to express our great appreciation to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for responding to the industry's appeal for the government to ban the entry of used motor vehicles in the country," Elizabeth Lee, president of TMA, said.

TMA issued the statement in response to news reports that the President had agreed, in principle, to the recommendation of Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II to stop used vehicle importation during a Cabinet meeting.

"We are also thankful to Secretary Roxas for appreciating the negative impact this has had on the local automotive industry over the last couple of years and for supporting our position on this issue," Lee said.

TMA's members are all assemblers and distributors of commercial vehicles, which account for over 73 percent of industry sales.

"Our members are particularly affected by these second-hand vehicles. In the last two years, the share of locally produced commercial vehicles versus new commercial vehicles registered has been declining," she said.

Figures from the Land Transportation Office show that of all new utility vehicles registered last year, only 39 percent were locally assembled.

Lee added: "We are looking forward to the swift finalization of the memorandum order that will regulate this ban."

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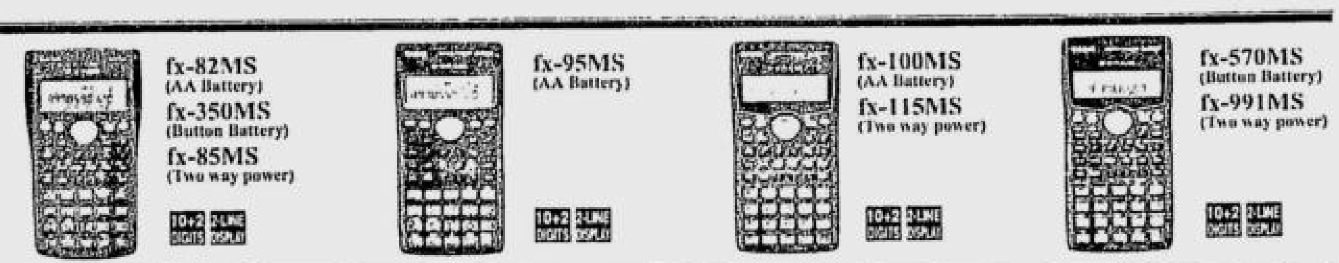

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Gov't plans $300-M bond float in Japan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to go back to the long-term, Japanese bond market to raise a fresh $300 million later this year or early next year as part of its advanced fund-raising efforts for 2003 when it would need to borrow $2.4 billion from abroad.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza told reporters that the government had already received some proposals for a Japanese bond float.

He said the government would request the state-owned Nippon Export and Investment Insurance of Japan to again guarantee part of the debt issue to bring down the cost of the borrowing.

In December 2001, the government raised 50 billion yen (equivalent to about $415 million) from the 10-year Japanese bond market. The borrowing meant for this year's requirement was partially guaranteed by the Nexi.

"The government is considering another Nexi-backed bond issue in Japan. The Japanese debt market is looking more stable than the dollar market," Edeza said.

The last yen float was in the form of shibosai bonds or debt notes to be floated in a private placement rather than through public issue or a samurai placement.

Three Japanese institutions—Fuji Bank, Nomura Securities and Daiwai Securities—handled last year's borrowing. Proposals for a similar debt issue also came from Japan-based banks.

Edeza said it would take quite a while before the government could secure a guarantee from the Nexi. He said the Japanese bond issue, if it would push through, would be done late this year or early next year.

He explained that pursuing guarantees from global financial institutions was part of the government's strategy to bring down the cost of its borrowing.

A guarantee usually improves the credit rating of the borrower to the investment grade level, which should make the exercise cheaper despite the fees that had to be paid to the guarantor.

"We are watching the Japanese bond market and it looks more favorable to us," said the national treasurer. He said the government would prefer a longer tenor but it would have to consult the market as to what maturity would be most attractive to investors.

Early this month, the government quietly floated $300 million worth of five-year bonds and listed these on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. The fresh borrowing, Edeza said, signaled the start of the government's pre-funding for 2003.

Next year, the government is estimating that the budget deficit would reach P142 billion, or down from an emerging fiscal gap of P160 billion to P170 billion this year.

Foreign rating firms were concerned that with volatile conditions in global markets, the government might have difficulty accessing credit next year. Edeza noted, however, that this was the same concern a year ago and yet the government was able to borrow a good portion of its needs in advance.

Edeza stressed that the country's funding needs were modest and were carefully planned such that funds that could be tapped "opportunistically" today were being considered.

He earlier said that the government might raise late this year as much as $1 billion from the Japanese, European and American markets to ease the burden for 2003.

CAC gets certificate from ISO

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. (CAC), producer of different sizes of rocks for the construction industry, was awarded the ISO 9001-2002 certification by the International Standards Organization.

CAC president Francisco M. Ortigas III said this bode well for the future of the company as it confirmed that the company was the best-performing aggregates company in the country.

CAC applied for an ISO Certification about a year ago. The award was handed to them after a thorough audit by SGS Philippines Inc.

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George Heenan, director of the Institute for Franchise Education of St. Thomas University, one of the top five universities in the United States known for its entrepreneurship program, is welcomed upon his arrival in the country by Samie Lim (middle), vice chair for Asia of the World Franchise Council, and Bing Limjoco, president of the Philippine Franchise Association. Heenan will speak on "Trends & Prospects in Global Franchising" during the opening day of the 10th Philippine Franchise Conference on Sept. 25 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

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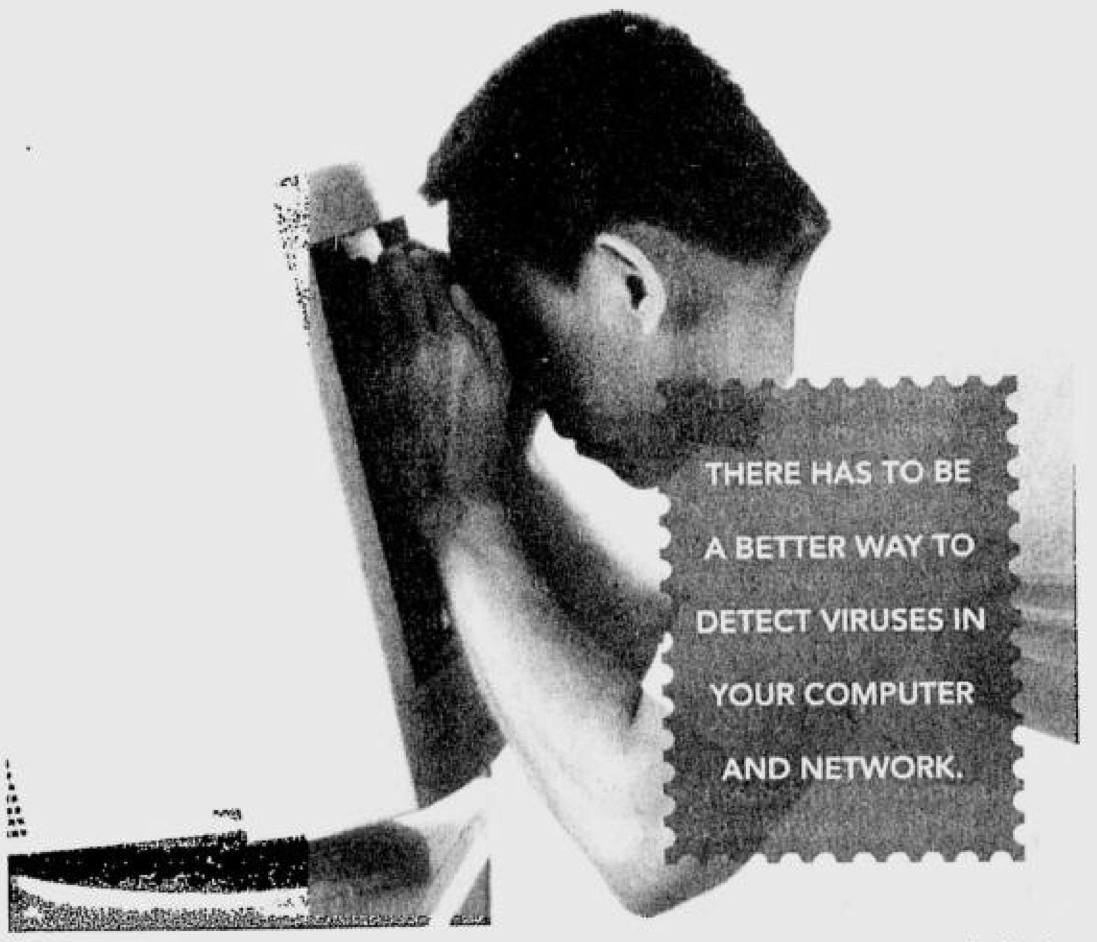

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Gov't saves ₱20.7B on lower interest payments

By Clarissa S. Batino

MODEST interest rates have allowed the government to save as much as P20.66 billion in the first eight months of the year.

These savings, however, were not enough to offset a still lethargic revenue collection and higher spending from January to August.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the steep fall in interest rates had given the government substantial savings in debt payments.

"We have so far saved substantially in interest payments. This has helped in controlling the deficit," Edeza told reporters.

Without the savings, the deficit as of August would have reached more than P160 billion instead of P144.033 billion, he said.

Despite the savings, however, the government's budget deficit as of August still stayed above its P130-billion full-year target.

Economic managers are now focusing on keeping the deficit down to 4 percent of gross domestic product, or about P160 billion, by year's end.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho stressed that while generally favorable, a low interest rates regime was having a negative impact on revenue collection.

The usually significant turnout from bank payments on interest incomes has become anemic, he said.

Camacho said the lower interest rates were responsible for a fourth of the shortfall of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

As of August, the BIR's shortfall against its target had reached about P46 billion.

Edeza credited the substantial drop in interest rates, especially during the early part of the year, for the savings that the government continued to realize.

Savings in July and August reached almost P4 billion, complementing the P16.7 billion deducted from debt-servicing during the first six months of the year.

During the first eight months, the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate averaged 6.08 percent, compared to 9.94 percent during the same period in 2001. The full-year target was set at between 7 percent and 8 percent.

The benchmark three-month rate used by banks in pricing their loans dropped to a record low of 4.299 percent on April 29.

Even the five-year bonds registered an average of 12.25 percent as of August versus 14.93 percent a year earlier.

Last year, the government earmarked some P181.601 billion to pay its maturing obligations but spent only P174.834 billion, leading to savings of as much as P6.767 billion.

"As a borrower, we hope the regime of low interest rates will never end, but we know this is a dream. For the meantime, we will continue to take advantage of low rates as we try to institute policies that will help stabilize interest rates," Edeza said.

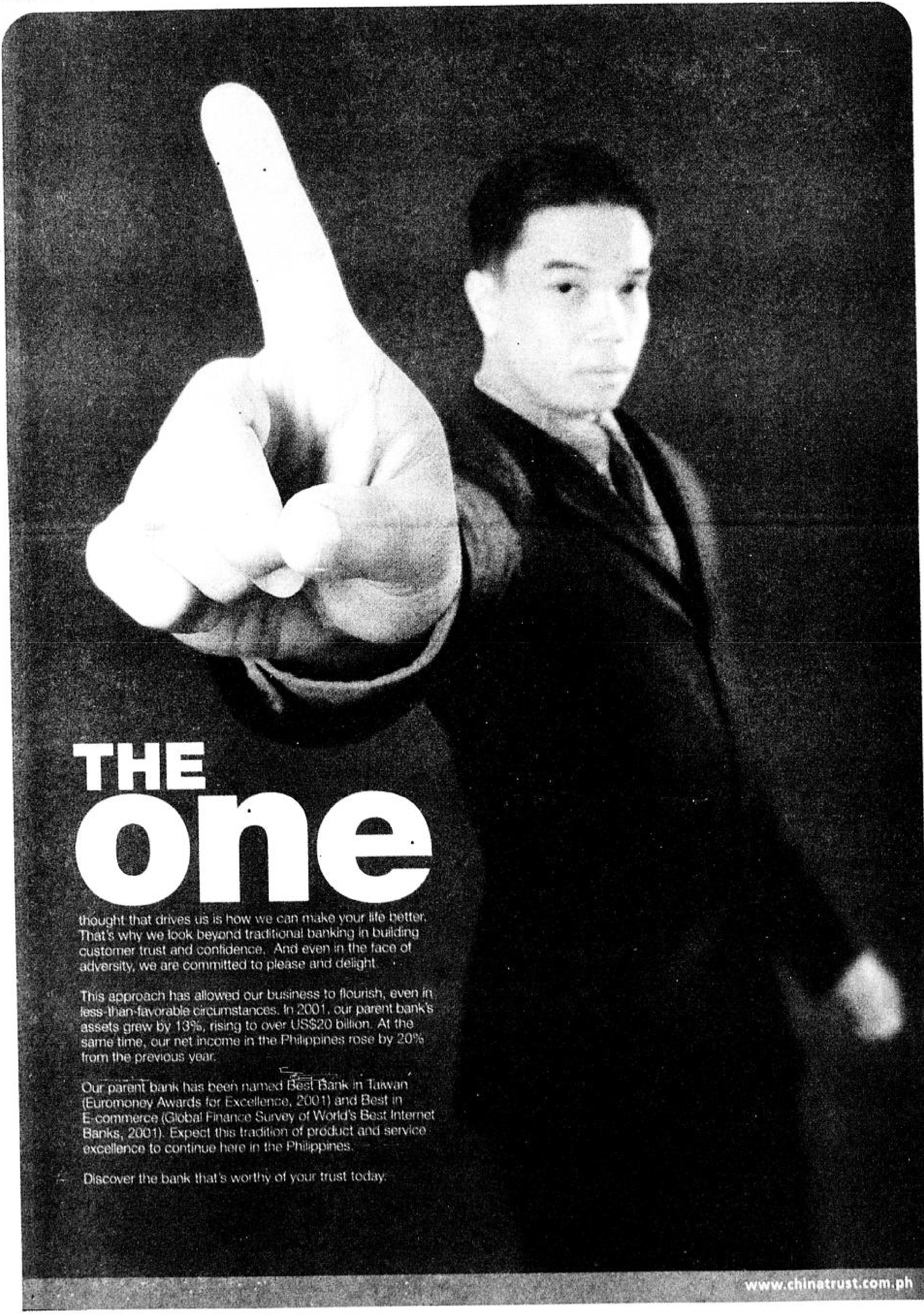
The growing budget deficit has been pushing local interest rates up, as banks anticipate the government's need for more cash to finance the gap between revenues and expenditures despite assurances from the country's economic managers that the fiscal gap this year has been sufficiently financed by foreign and local borrowings.

The government said it needed only $1.5 billion from the foreign markets this year but had so far ended up borrowing almost $2 billion.

It has also raised some P63 billion from the three- and five-year retail bond market in June against a target of only P12 billion.

John McGowan, treasurer of HSBC Corp., said local interest rates would no longer rise dramatically for the remainder of the year given that banks were still awash with cash and had limited choices in investing these funds.

EDEZA: Big savings.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Napocor set to buy coal, dares critics

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN National Power Corp. has said it will hold auctions for new coal supply contracts next month despite appeals made by some lawmakers and environmental groups that it instead shut down its coal-fired power plants.

A Napocor official familiar with the matter said in an interview the tenders would cover the fuel needs of the 1,200-megawatt Sual power plant in Pangasinan, 700-MW Pagbilao power plant in Quezon Province and 600-MW Masinloc power plant in Zambales.

Napocor owns and operates the Masinloc power plant, while the Sual and Pagbilao power plants are under build-operate-transfer contracts with Mirant Philippines, the country's largest independent power producer.

"The available supply for these plants would last until the end of the year," the Napocor official said, "but we need to secure more supplies next month so that we can have them delivered by January."

He said while the three plants had long-term contracts, as opposed to spot deals, with suppliers, a contract was good for only five shipments of 65,000 metric tons each.

"The Sual plant alone consumes four shipments a month since it runs day in and day out," the source said.

He explained that there would be no auctions for the supply needs of the 600-MW Calaca power plant in Batangas since Napocor had a standing contract with local coal producer Semirara Mining Corp.

Officials of the Calaca plant said last month the facility had started using purely local supply since early this year due to the improved quality of Semirara coal.

Most of Napocor's coal imports come from China and Indonesia.

Napocor is holding the coal contract auctions at a time when lawmakers and interest groups like Greenpeace are calling on the government to stop using coal as fuel for power generation.

Critics have lashed out against coal-fired power plants for allegedly spewing toxic emissions that endanger the environment and the people living around such facilities.

Last month, Napocor officer in charge Roland Quilala said Napocor would continue using coal-fired power plants, as these had never been cited for any violation by regulatory government agencies.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said last week, however, that the public should not take Napocor's words at face value.

Environmetal standards are usually neglected in the country and Napocor's plants should be independently monitored, Beltran said.

Assembers slam new car dev't plan

From page B18

The source said assemblers wanted a two-step transition period wherein vehicles with tax reductions would implement the changes immediately while vehicles that would have tax hikes, specifically AUVs, pickups and vans, should be given at least six months to adopt the new tax rates.

Auto assemblers want the excise tax based on the manufacturers' wholesale price for locally assembled units and on the landed cost, plus a 10-percent margin, for completely built-up units.

The source said the industry wanted a review committee made up of the DTI, Department of Finance and industry representatives that would modify the tax rates should the peso fluctuate beyond the 5-percent band.

The MVDP, signed by President Macapagal Arroyo last week, aims to make the Philippines a regional hub for the production of motor vehicles and auto parts.

Economic sentiment surveys battle with Iraq

LONDON—Economic sentiment indices from the United States and Germany should offer global bond and currency markets some respite next week from market uncertainties presented by the ongoing US-Iraq stand-off.

Tuesday's US Federal Open Market Committee meeting is regarded as a non-event, however, with markets pricing in no change to US interest rates.

Some observers said they expect fear of war between the United States and Iraq will cause a dive in US Conference Board September consumer confidence index on Tuesday and in the University of Michigan's final September consumer sentiment index on Friday.

But a Reuters poll of economists forecast the Conference Board data series to show a pick-up in September to 93.7 from 93.5 in August.

"We expect both sets of data to plunge next week as the prospect of war with Iraq looms and as the US corporate outlook continues to look poor and unseats confidence among consumers," said Luca Filipo, senior euro zone economist, at Banca IMI in Milan.

Filipo said he expected the Michigan reading to be 84.5, down from the mid-month reading for September at 86.2 and August's more buoyant 87.6.

He said Iraq's announcement this week that it will readmit United Nations weapons inspectors after nearly four years added to market uncertainty.

"We had some expectation of a military strike by the United States against Iraq until Saddam (Hussein) confused the picture with his offer this week," Filipo said.

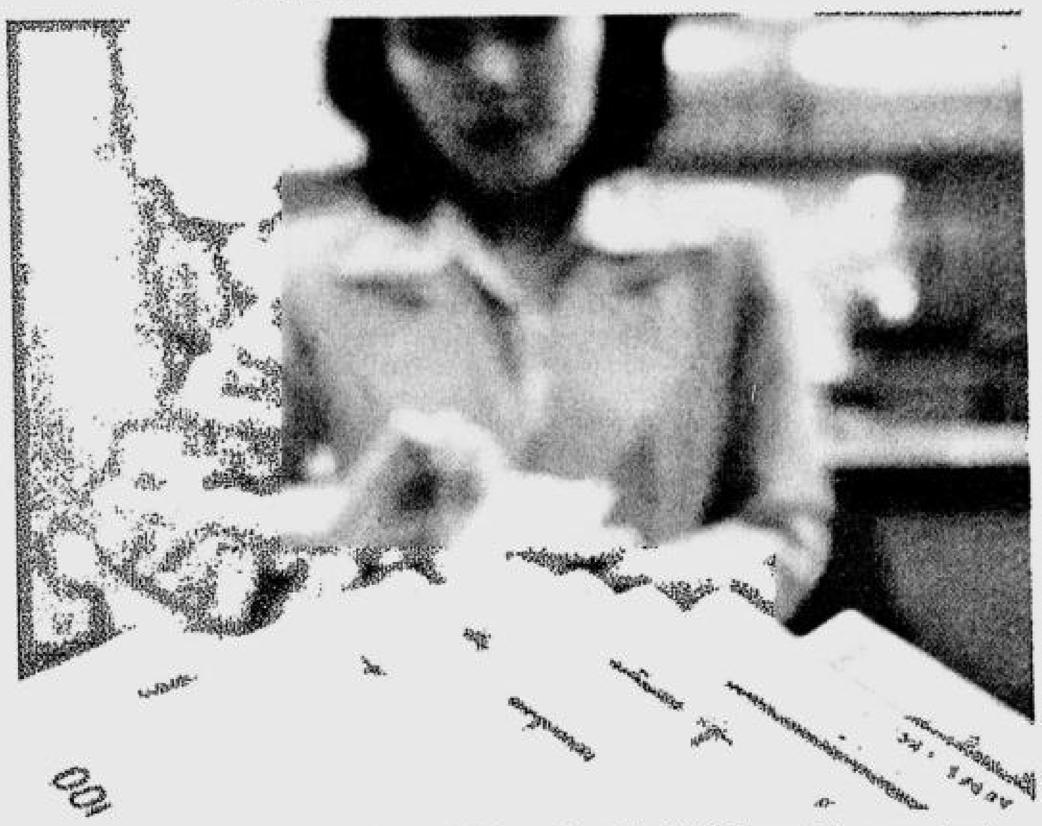
David Page, economist at Investec in London, said the Iraq question was likely to be a long-running concern for financial markets, and that US consumer sentiment data should help distract investor attention next week.

"Overall the geopolitical tensions will continue to play on investors' minds but I have a feeling this (Iraq) factor will be around for a few quarters to come," Page said.

"The numbers will be important, given the role of consumer spending in the US economy."

The FOMC meeting on Tuesday is widely expected to leave interest rates on hold at a 40-year low of 1.75 percent.

Not one of 22 primary dealers who trade directly with the Federal Reserve said they expect the central bank to alter interest rates at the meeting, according to a Reuters poll conducted mid-week. *Reuters*



A MONEY changer counts rupiah note in Jakarta Sept. 16, 2002. The rupiah was weaker in early trade, breaking the 9,000 level amid general dollar strength against the regional units, dealers said. At 9:10 am, the rupiah was at 9,035/9,055 to the dollar compared with Friday's close of 8,960/8,970. Dealers said there is speculation in the region especially in Singapore that a major US investor is withdrawing its portfolio investment from Asia. AFP

Nations vulnerable to reliance on ME

OSAKA, Japan—Oil importing nations cannot avoid growing reliance on the volatile Middle East for fuel supplies, increasing their vulnerability to an oil crisis, energy watchdog the International Energy Agency said on Saturday.

Growing dependence on a region now the focus of war fears, as the United States considers an attack on Iraq, makes energy security a major concern again for the first time since the 1990 Gulf crisis.

"Security of supply has moved to the top of the energy policy agenda," said the IEA, the Paris-based agency that advises on energy for 26 industrialized nations, in new projections.

The report, a World Energy Outlook to 2030, was released here on Saturday at the International Energy Forum of some 60 oil-producing and consuming nations.

"Growing trade, almost entirely in fossil fuels, will have major geopolitical implications," said IEA Executive Director Robert Priddle. "This is bound to intensify concerns about the world's vulnerability to energy supply disruptions as production is increasingly concentrated in a small number of producing countries." The agency, set up in 1974 after the Arab oil embargo to protect the West's energy interests, said importing nations could still do more to protect against the threat of another oil shock.

"Maintaining the security of international sea-lanes and pipelines will become more important as oil supply chains lengthen," the report said.

"(Governments) will also step up measures to deal with short-term supply emergencies or price shocks, bolstering the IEA's standard requirement now for its member countries to hold 90 days worth of oil stocks. *Reuters*

Markets pose risk for recovery, say officials

FRANKFURT—Senior Japanese and British policy-makers on Friday blamed ailing stock markets for endangering economic recovery, fueling speculation that interest rate cuts may be needed to fend off deflation.

The comments from the Japanese government and Bank of England Governor Sir Edward George followed a similar warning from the European Central Bank on Thursday that plunging markets had rattled the confidence of consumers and investors.

"We are paying very close attention to the impact of this and we have to be ready to react if there was greater downward pressure than we thought," George said during a news conference in Birmingham.

In Tokyo the Japanese government said fluctuations in financial markets could hit domestic demand and it forecast the severe deflationary trend in Japan's economy would continue through fiscal 2003/04.

"Depending on movements in financial markets going forward, there is a possibility that it will put downward pressure on domestic demand," the Cabinet office said in a statement on the outlook for the economy.

Key world stock markets have fallen over 50 percent from their March 2000 peaks, tipping the United States into recession last year and slamming global growth into neutral from top gear.

The latest comments from George, the Japanese government, and the ECB sound dovish to economists who say that a faltering recovery will warrant rate cuts before year-end. *Reuters*

BEA, HP team up vs IBM

NEW YORK—Hewlett-Packard Co. on Friday said it would bundle BEA Systems Inc. flagship software product WebLogic on its best-known line of high-end computers, stepping up their alliance to do battle against a common foe, IBM.

Hewlett-Packard, which is tied with International Business Machines Corp. as the No. 1 maker of hardware, will ship a copy of the most up-to-date version of WebLogic with its UX11i server.

"With this bundle, what we provide is a unique competitive offering that HP and BEA together can bring to the market relative to our natural common enemies here," said Gamiel Gran, BEA's vice president of strategic alliances.

"Clearly, we're eager to present our message relative to IBM and IBM WebSphere, and similarly HP has an interest to erode IBM market share, as well." *Reuters*

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- Dimension (H x W x D, mm): 396 x 540 x 152

F-06PHX1
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- Air Quality Motor
- Quiet, Automatic Operation
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DISAPPOINTMENTS LINGER

Warnings cut short Wall Street's momentum

NEW YORK—Wall Street has had little working in its favor this year. Now it has given back one of its few assets, its rally from the summer's lows.

The market's setback, marked by the Dow Jones industrials falling back below 8,000, isn't surprising given what companies are saying about profits, which are still disappointing.

"Some of these stocks aren't just missing by a penny or two, but they are missing by a mile and a half," said David Sowerby, chief market analysts at Loomis, Sayles & Co. in Detroit, referring in part to Morgan Stanley, which on Thursday missed earnings expectations by 12 cents a share.

Wall Street's retreat is a blow to investors who thought the market had reached a bottom during the summer and was beginning a recovery. The Dow peaked at 9,053 on Aug. 22, but the blue chips are now down more than 1,000 points from that high, and are nearer to their four-year closing low of 7,702 reached on July 23.

"You've got the investor who is shell-shocked already, and every time he buys at the bottom, the market trades back to it," said Michael Murphy, head trader at Wachovia Securities in Baltimore.

Murphy expects the market's volatility to continue for the remainder of the year. Little is expected to develop in the economy or company earnings reports that will inspire investors to indulge in buying beyond some periodic bargain hunting.

"Nobody wants to take a chance. Nobody wants to make a big bet," Murphy said. "This is as bad an environment as I have ever seen."

The culprits behind the market's latest slippage are profit warnings, this past week from McDonald's and Electronic Data Systems, and earnings disappointments from the likes of Morgan Stanley and Kroger.

"More than any other issue, that has been what has plagued the market in 2002 and more recently what has been behind giving back most of the (post) July 23 rally," Sowerby said.

When earnings are released in earnest in mid-October, the bad news is likely to continue. Sowerby said analysts had been anticipating profit growth of 13 percent to 17 percent but have scaled back their expectations to 9 percent to 10 percent.

So, the third-quarter warnings and earnings season is starting to resemble all the others in this 2 1/2-year-old bear market. Investors move through a cycle—at the outset, getting a bit hopeful and bidding stocks higher in anticipation that the rebound has indeed begun. Then the selloff begins as companies issue their warning, dashing investors' expectations once again.

"Again earnings season is around the corner and the question is: Are we going to see the numbers that get us back on track?" said Thomas F. Lydon Jr., president of Global Trends Investments in Newport Beach, Calif. "And it just might be too soon."

The market's major indexes recorded their fourth straight weekly declines.

For the week, the Dow lost 326.67, or 3.9 percent, after rising 43.63 Friday. The Dow closed the week at 7,986.02.

The Nasdaq composite index had a weekly decline of 70.31, or 5.4 percent. On Friday, the Nasdaq rose 4.64 to 1,221.09.

For the week, the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 44.42, or 5 percent. On Friday, the S-and-P advanced 2.07 to 845.39.

The Russell 2000 index had a weekly loss of 22.71, or 5.8 percent, after eking out a small gain the previous week. On Friday, the Russell, which tracks smaller company stocks, rose 1.74 to 367.28.

The Wilshire Associates Equity Index, which represents the combined market value of all New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange and Nasdaq issues, ended the week at $8.023 trillion, down $417.76 billion from the previous week. A year ago, the index was $8.900 trillion.

AP

In tech world, recovery always seems 6 mo. away

NEW YORK—For more than two years now the big question in every corner of tech world has been: "Where's that recovery?"

And like an old, scratched-up vinyl record, the answer repeated ad infinitum has been: "Six months from now."

Maybe it's lingering optimism, a longing for the old days, when technology companies believed the growth would go on forever. Or perhaps there is a disconnect between what technology buyers say they expect to spend and then what they eventually do buy.

Whatever the reason—the long dream recovery is perpetually two quarters away.

"The reality is that many of these companies were born and raised in a time of unbelievable growth, it's probably a different skill set to manage during a period when things are maturing before your eyes," said Marty Shagrin, research analyst at Victory Capital Management, which has about $75 billion in assets under management.

In the late 1990s, technology companies saw an unprecedented boom driven by the wide use of the Internet and an economy that supported massive sales growth of computer systems.

While companies have had to face slower spending, some investors say that executives may be worse than inept—they pumped up their companies' outlooks in order to fatten their own wallets.

"They can tell a bullish story while they sell the stock," said Christopher Bonavico at Transamerica Investment Management, which has $12 billion in assets under management.

"They have an inherent bias to get their share price up." That contention has been made against executives at AOL Time Warner, WorldCom Inc. and Global Crossing Ltd. who have all come under fire for selling shares while painting a happy picture for the public.

AOL Time Warner's top executives, including Chairman Steve Case, have been particularly criticized for selling shares since the merger was completed in January 2001.

The company maintained its aggressive financial targets for much of last year before finally abandoning them last fall—and the stock has dropped 70 percent since the $106.2-billion deal was completed.

"Steve Case was promising advertising is fine and he was selling stock in the meantime," Bonavico said.

AOL declined to comment. WorldCom and Global Crossing are under investigation for similar stock sales.

Whatever the case, many companies have stretched investor tolerance to the snapping point, sending their stock prices to the rock bottom, because they've been unable or unwilling to forecast the bad news ahead.

Reuters

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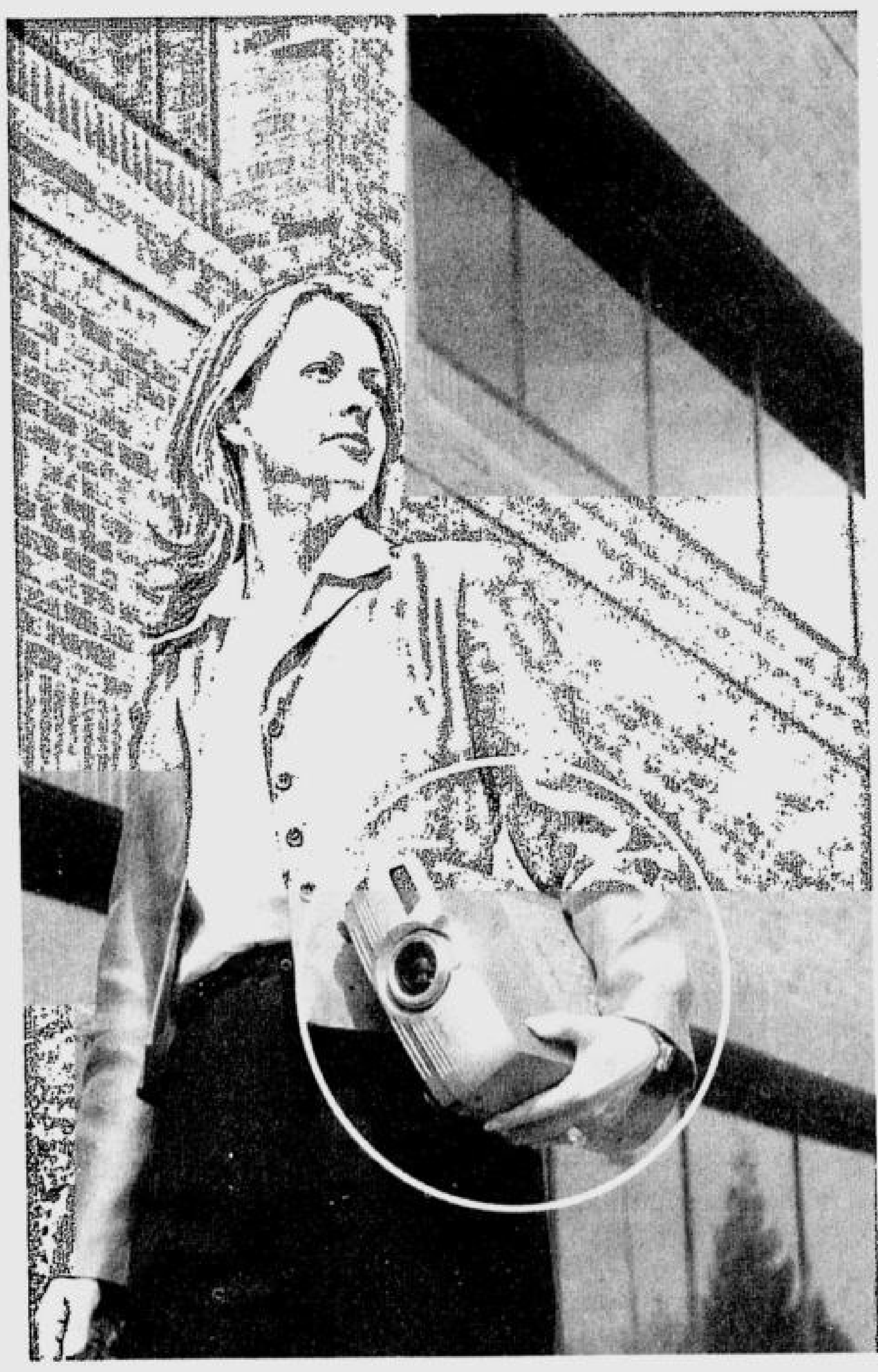
SEB

THE DAX index on the board at the Frankfurt stock exchange is highlighted by a zoom effect. The DAX index dipped briefly below the psychologically important level of 3,000 points for the first time in more than five years, but then rallied as investors jumped on the chance to snap up bargains.

AFP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New US SEC board member focuses on small investors

WASHINGTON—When new Securities and Exchange Commissioner Roel Campos thinks of investors he doesn't picture massive hedge funds but people like his father, who depend on his pension, savings and "the system working" for his retirement.

The former prosecutor of drug traffickers, Air Force officer and radio station executive was ceremonially sworn in Friday to the board of Wall Street's top regulatory agency, long a haunt of securities lawyers and academics.

His appointment comes at a time when a scandal-ridden Wall Street is wondering how to regain the faith of small investors like his father.

"He is like millions and millions of Americans out there who depend on what they've saved, who depend on the system working . . . to continue to live with dignity in retirement," Campos said in a recent interview.

"I always keep that segment of Americans in my mind—I think that's a useful perspective."

The 53-year-old Campos, born in small town in South Texas to Mexican-American parents, is the first Hispanic to sit on the SEC. One of three recent appointments that brought the commission up to full membership, he comes to the agency as it faces an uphill battle to restore investor confidence rocked by recent massive accounting scandals like Enron and WorldCom.

Campos, a Democrat, is flanked by Republicans Chairman Harvey Pitt, a former securities lawyer, Cynthia Glassman, an economist, and Paul Atkins, another lawyer.

The other Democrat, Harvey Goldschmid, is a former SEC General Counsel and used to teach at Columbia University law school.

While Campos acknowledges he's an unusual choice, he says he feels his presence rounds out the agency's perspective.

"I have found I bring a unique combination of perspectives," he said in a recent interview with Reuters.

"It's not just being a prosecutor. I've had to worry about meeting a payroll."

In addition to pressure to clean up corporate America, the SEC itself is also facing pressure to be squeaky clean and free of potential conflicts of interest.

The agency's chairman, Harvey Pitt, a former Wall Street lawyer who represented some major accounting firms, faced criticism and even calls for his resignation because of allegations he was too close to the industry he was meant to police.

Reuters

Alcatel axes 20,000 more jobs

PARIS—Beleaguered telecoms equipment group Alcatel cut its sales outlook on Friday and announced plans to axe around 20,000 more jobs in its drive to return to profit in a deteriorating market.

The new job cuts include some 10,000 decided in June but never officially announced. The cuts come on top of some 30,000 job losses already earmarked for 2001 and 2002 as spending on equipment by cash-strapped telecoms firms remains miserably low.

Alcatel, its shares bashed to all-time lows this week on financing jitters, said it now expects a 10 percent decline in second-half sales versus the first half, having previously forecast flat sequential turnover.

The company's battered shares bounced higher on Friday to close up 7.57 percent at 2.70 euros, as investors warmed to the latest restructuring. The company's bonds fell, however, with investors fearful that grim market conditions could force a debt restructuring and wipe out the value of their investments.

"This appears to be a pre-emptive move on the part of management and that's something investors want to see," said senior credit analyst Aizaz Shah at BNP Paribas in London.

Third-quarter sales are set to decline 15 percent versus the second-quarter, although the impact on operating profit should be cushioned by cost cuts, Alcatel said in a statement.

Battling to fulfill a goal to return to profit next year, Alcatel said it aimed to cut its global staff numbers to 60,000 by the end of 2003 in a fresh restructuring expected to cost 500 million euros ($493 million) over the next three quarters.

"Due to a further deterioration of the telecoms markets, Alcatel will present to employee representatives an acceleration of its restructuring program to maintain the previously announced goal of a profit restoration in 2003," it said.

Reuters

Oil prices steady as Opec keeps taps tight

OSAKA —Oil prices held steady on Friday after Opec decided against raising crude supplies for winter and as the United States threatened to go it alone to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Saudi comments that, in the event of war, Opec should only pump more to fill a real supply shortage, not to deflate market speculation, also kept prices riding high.

International benchmark Brent crude rose 3 cents to $28.41 a barrel in London. US oil futures in New York were up 10 cents at $29.60, within a dollar of recent 19-month highs.

Prices maintained a firm footing after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries on Thursday kept supply limits on hold, defying consuming country calls to prevent a price spike as winter heating demand rises in the northern hemisphere.

"We were looking forward to more oil," said William Ramsay, deputy director of the Paris-based International Energy Agency, adviser on energy to 26 industrialized nations.

"The fact that prices are at $30 shows that the world needs more oil. Winter is almost upon us," Ramsay told Reuters.

Opec curbs, together with fears that possible military conflict in Iraq could disrupt Middle East oil supplies, have pushed up oil prices 40 percent since the start of the year.

"An Opec quota freeze raises the spectre of much larger than normal draws on global petroleum stocks moving forward with inventories already sitting at below-normal levels," said energy analyst Michael Rothman of Merrill Lynch in New York. .

President George W. Bush on Thursday urged the US Congress to authorize military action against Iraq, warning the United Nations that Washington was prepared to go it alone to oust Saddam Hussein.

Even in the event of war, it is by no means certain that Opec will act to blunt a price spike.

Reuters

US budget gap down in Aug.

WASHINGTON—The US government ran a smaller budget gap in August than in the same month a year ago, sending the year-to-date deficit over $200 billion with one month left in the fiscal year, the treasury department said on Friday.

In its monthly look at the government's bottom line, the treasury department said August posted a $54.71-billion deficit, narrowing from August 2001's $79.99 billion shortfall. The number was in line with forecasts by private and government analysts.

Revenues were up slightly in comparison with August 2001, while outlays fell sharply. Both reflected one-time factors in the timing of federal benefit payments and income tax rebate checks in August 2001.

With one month to go, the budget remains on track to post its first deficit since 1997. Through August, the government was $200.18 billion in the red, a reversal of the $91.77-billion surplus in the same period last year.

The government's fiscal year ends on Sept. 30. The White House's Office of Management and Budget has said it anticipates a $165-billion deficit for the year, while the Congressional Budget Office is projecting a slightly smaller gap of about $157 billion. Depending on its size, it will likely be the largest annual shortfall since either 1994 or 1995.

The switch from surplus to deficit has led to political wrangling in Washington. The Bush administration has blamed the deterioration on several factors, including a decline in revenue from a sluggish economy and increased spending for security and the war on terrorism.

Democrats have blamed the shift in large part on the effects of the 10-year, $1.35-trillion tax cut that started going into effect last year.

With only a few weeks until the start of the next fiscal year, work on the 2003 budget is still far from complete on Capitol Hill.

Earlier this week, President George W. Bush lashed out at Congress for its inaction. "If you have no budget, it means there's no discipline and if there's no discipline, then it's likely the Senate will overspend," he said while visiting Iowa.

The chair of the Senate Budget Committee, Sen. Kent Conrad, a North Dakota Democrat, fired back on Thursday in a statement from the Senate floor.

"It is unfortunate that the President continues to deny any responsibility for the nation's dive back into deficits and increasing debt.," Conrad said.

Reuters

Tyco's audit poses investor risk

BOSTON—The forensic accounting investigation at Tyco International Ltd. poses substantial risk for investors betting that the allegations of corruption against former chair Dennis Kozlowski did not infect the rest of the sprawling conglomerate.

"Adding a forensic investigation into the mix, the risk increases tenfold," said Tom Carlucci, head of Foley & Lardner's West Coast white collar fraud practice.

"They're always going to find something," Carlucci said.

"Every investigation I did as a prosecutor, you have a particular target, but it always branches off because something else gets your interest. And that's what is going to happen with a forensic accountant."

Forensic accountants recently hired to inspect the financial plumbing of Tyco may find small irregularities that the company's outside auditor looked past as immaterial, said Larry Crumbley, editor of the Journal of Forensic Accounting.

"A fraud auditor actually will look for these small errors and irregularities because that may give us a modus operandi of a corrupt executive," Crumbley said. "What the forensic auditor is doing is looking for the tip of that fraudulent iceberg."

"You go in there and you don't trust anything," added Crumbley, the KPMG professor of accounting at Louisiana State University. You're very suspicious. You sort of assume the person is guilty."

While the word forensic conjures up images of death and gore, forensic accountant Bill Kauppila sees his craft as "coming up with the story behind the story."

Tyco says the fraud alleged against Kozlowski and other former senior leaders does not require material adjustments to prior financial statements.

Investors and some analysts have embraced this as a sign that Tyco's underlying businesses were decentralized and not tainted by senior management.

They're hoping that Kozlowski's nearly 30 years at Tyco did not put an indelible stamp on a conglomerate with more than 2,000 subsidiaries.

Tyco chief executive Edward Breen has brought in forensic accountants from Urbach Kahn & Werlin to clear the air over Tyco's accounting, which has been the subject of persistent suspicion. Critics claim Kozlowski used a decade-long acquisition spree to artificially boost earnings.

Reuters

S&P affirms Japan rating

NEW YORK—Standard & Poor's on Friday criticized the Japanese central bank's recent decision to buy the stock holdings of ailing banks, but said it was affirming Japan's sovereign debt rating, for now.

However, S&P warned that it might revisit Japan's ratings as early as next month, in a sharp departure from remarks earlier this year, which indicated that no rating actions would be taken until next year.

"We are disappointed in the Bank of Japan's actions," said John Chambers, deputy head of sovereign ratings at S&P, which has downgraded Japan three times in the last two years.

"If the BOJ decision to purchase shares from the banks were motivated by a desire to take a more accommodative monetary stance as part of a well-articulated program to fight deflation, that would be one thing," he said.

"However, the information that we have right now would not lead us to conclude that," Chambers added.

Instead, the plan looks more like a bailout scheme, an indirect way of trying to provide financial assistance to the banks, Chambers said. S&P fears the measures will prove a poor and ephemeral substitute for a comprehensive effort at reforming Japan's crippled banking system.

S&P said it would wait until October, when the government is expected to unveil a package to combat deflation, before reviewing Japan's ratings. In Friday's action, S&P affirmed Japan's sovereign rating at AA-minus, the lowest of any country in the Group of Seven industrialized nations and three notches below S&P's top rating.

Japan's outlook remains gloomy, S&P said, as investors worried the central bank's decision earlier in the week to rescue struggling banks by purchasing their battered stock holdings could end up pushing them further into the red.

Japan's Nikkei stock market index ended the week fluttering just above 19-year lows.

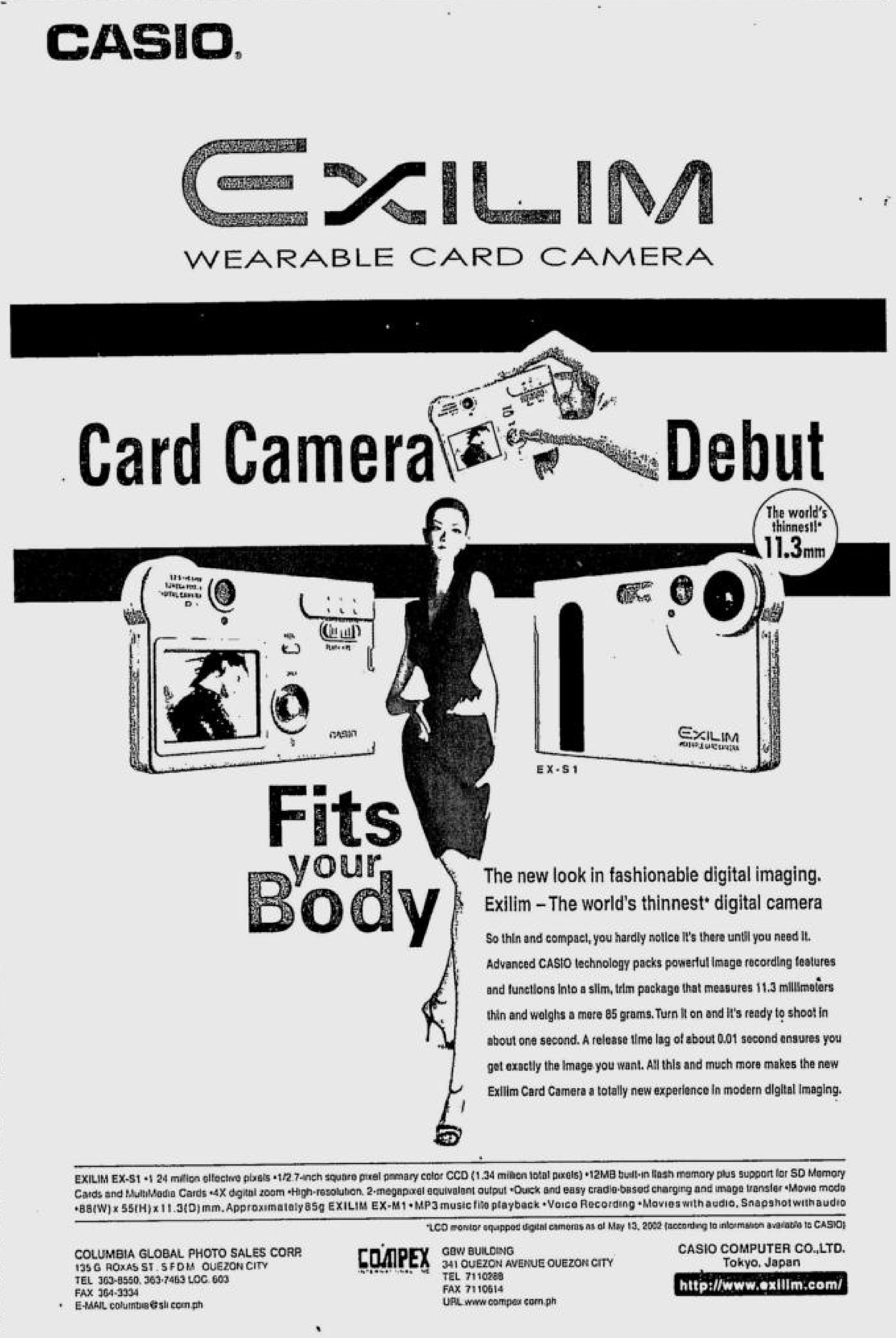
Bids in a 1.8-trillion-yen ($14.8 billion) auction of 10-year Japanese government bonds fell short of the amount offered for the first time ever on Friday in a sign of anxiety about the BOJ's new share purchase policy.

"The failure to attract sufficient bids for today's auction of 1.8 trillion yen of 10-year bonds does not put the government's funding plan at risk," said Takahira Ogawa, head of Standard & Poor's Asian sovereign ratings team. "But it does highlight the uncertainty among investors over the direction of economic policy." Although details of the BOJ's policy shift are still scant, S&P said that without greater transparency and more clearly articulated rules regarding the purchases, the program was unlikely to keep banks solvent in the long term.

Analysts said the BOJ's move is disturbing, but not exactly out of sync with the Japanese government's interventionist tendencies.

"The Bank of Japan's actions are disappointing and slightly surprising," said David Roberts, a senior international economist at Banc of America Securities.

Reuters



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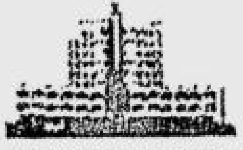

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Female / Male at least 23-33 years old
With pleasing personality and strong leadership qualities. Proficient in oral and written communication skills. Knowledgeable in computer parts, components and other computer peripherals. Graduate of any 4-year computer related courses. Minimum of one year experience in computer sales. Must have high interpersonal, negotiation and persuasive skills. With good scholastic records.

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Male / Female at least 22-28 years old
Graduate of Electronics and Communications Engineering from a reputable school preferably passed Licensure Examination. Knowledgeable in computer parts, components and other computer peripherals. Must have three (3) months to one (1) year hands-on experience in the same capacity in any multi-branch company. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills. Willing to undergo comprehensive training and work on shifts. Must be computer literate. Can effectively work under pressure with minimum supervision, well-organized and cost efficient. Fresh graduates with good scholastic records are welcome to apply.

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Male / Female at least 22-28 years old
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J.M. Miranda Building 429 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
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FCMC7901/2002

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 7901 OF 2002.

BETWEEN

CECILIA CORTEZ GARCIA Petitioner
and
RENATO SARRAH GARCIA Respondent

NOTICE

A Divorce Petition has been filed by Cecilia Cortez Garcia, the Petitioner, against Renato Sarrah Garcia, the Respondent, whose address is unknown but who may apply to the Family Court Registry at M2 Floor, Wanchai Law Courts, Wanchai Tower, No. 12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong for a copy of the petition and other relevant documents in this suit. If within one month, he has not communicated with the Divorce Registry the Court may hear the case in his absence.

Registrar

The Management and Staff of
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23, September 2002
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MAYOR LORETO "ETONG" E. LAQUI

of Mataasnakahoy, Batangas
Municipal Mayor of Mataasnakahoy

Peacefully joined his Creator on Saturday, September 21, 2002 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Engracia**; children **Becky** and **Roland**, **Thelma** and **Dan**, **Henry** and **Teng**, **Tayos** and **Mong**, **Zaldy** and **Nancy**, **Ruel** and **Lynn**, **Benjie** and **Becka**; grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Agoncillo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City.

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Concepcion Sarayba Bleza

December 16, 1926 - September 21, 2002

Widow of Ret. RTC **Judge Ildefonso M. Bleza Sr.** (†)

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 21, 2002 at the age of 75 years old.

Her loving children **Ellen** and **Victor Zoleta**, **Pilar** and **Tito Milambiling**, **Ildefonso Jr. (Bobeeh)** (†) and **Lina Marie Panganiban**; grandchildren **Zinnia** and **Miguel Suterio**, **Zarah**, **Zieryl**, **Papu**, **Tatum**, **Jing Jing** and **Jeff Gangcuangco** and **BJ**; great grandchildren **Angelo**, **Cassie** and **Rama**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at #817 Medicion II-F, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 25, 2002, at Wakas Cemetery, Kawit, Cavite after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary Magdalene Church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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MERCEDES LAGDAMEO-SPIEGEL

(Ditas)

April 16, 1941 - September 19, 2002

Died in the Peace of our Lord, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Her husband **William**; children **Renee O'Rourke**, **Tanya Haehnle**, **Steven** and **Scott**, their spouses and children; brothers and sisters **Nena & Ciling Penson**, **Manoling & Diosa**, **Danding & Milagros**, **Dody & Vilma**, **Tita & Jess Casus**, **Ito & Bill Jansen**, **Jolly & Walter Serron**, **Carmen**, **Lita & Dave Brannigan** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She will be laid to rest in Cincinnati, Ohio on Tuesday, September 24, 2002, the same day a Memorial Mass will be held at 7:00 PM at the Chapel of the Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Our Dearly Beloved

NARCISA REYNA SIAPNO

"Inang Narcing"

Dagupan City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 21, 2002 at the age of 90.

Her loving children and their spouses **Rainelda** and Jorge P. Cusi, **Gerry** and Letty Clasara, **Fedy** and Amelia Mendoza, **Lydia** (†), **Tony** and Emma Mercedes Ruiz, **Sammy** and Loretta de Guzman, and **Pete** and Emma De Guia; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and relatives and friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Child Chapel, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila up to September 25, 2002.

Interment will be held at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Dagupan City after Mass at St. John's Cathedral at 10:00 o'clock AM on September 26, 2002.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8 38-39

NICK G. SALVADOR

His bereaved wife **Jovita** (†); children **Boyet & Annie** (†), **Cathy & Chito**, **Joy**, **Grace & Patrick**, **Buboy & Arlene**, **Jayvee & Virna**, **Dante & Marie**, and **Marge**, grandchildren **Tintin**, **Camille**, **Kate**, **Ron Jacob**, **Vanz**, **Graziele**, **Simonne**, **Edward**, **Katkat**, **Mijren**, **Jov**, **Marc** and **Matthew** and dear relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Bernadette Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 24, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO BID

The **BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.** (BMHI) shall conduct a public bidding for the sale of a Bell 230 Helicopter, at the BCDA Corporate Center, Gozar Street, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

DESCRIPTION

Model: ***Bell 230 (8-seater)***; Year Manufactured: ***1993***; Body Color: ***April Green Metallic***; With ***Global Positioning System KLN 90B; 4 Tube Electronic Flight Info. System w/ Autopilot.***

List of other installed equipment is available upon written request addressed to the Special Bids and Awards Committee for the Sale/Disposal of the Bell 230 (SBAC-BH) Chairman at the following address:

The SBAC-BH Chairman
Sale/Disposal of Bell 230 Helicopter
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Special Bids and Awards Committee for the Sale/Disposal of the Bell 230 Helicopter (SBAC-BH) Chairman at the above-mentioned address, on or before 3:00 p.m of 7 October 2002. The LOI should state the following information:
   a. Company's name, address, citizenship and nature of business;
   b. Contact person and contact telephone number/s;
   c. Officers of the company; and
   d. Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years.
2. Interested parties shall secure a copy of the Terms of Reference for a non-refundable nominal fee of ***Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000)*** from the Office of Chief- of-Staff of BMHI on or before 3:00 p.m. of 8 October 2002.
3. All interested parties are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference to be held on 14 October 2002 at 9:30 a.m., BCDA Board Room.
4. BMHI reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, or to waive any defect or informality thereon or minor deviations, which do not affect the substance and validity of any or all of the proposals

For more information, please call **Roberto C. Atmosfera,** Head, Technical Working Committee for the Sale/Disposal of the Bell 230, **at Tel. Nos. 510-0426 and 551-3006 to 11 local 106.**

SBAC-BH CHAIRMAN

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: September 23 & 30, 2002
World Bank Loan No. 4446 PH
IFB No. SP 19-02

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Bontoc Public Market. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The Municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the Rehabilitation and Expansion of Bontoc Public Market (a two storey existing structure with a floor area of 1080 sq.m.; a new construction with a floor area of 2260 sq.m.).
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting September 24, 2002 to October 23, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Municipal Engineer's Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

   Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of P320,000.00 in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the Municipal Treasurer's Office on or before October 23, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
4. A pre-bid conference will be held at 1:30 p.m. on October 9, 2002 at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall, Bontoc, Mountain Province.
5. The Municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of Contract.

(Sgd.) HON. LOUIS F. CLAVER, JR.
Municipal Mayor/BAC Chair

(PDI - Sept. 23 & 30, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites eligible Filipino consulting firms duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of drawing a long list from which a selection shall be made for the provision of ***Consultancy Services on Revenue Assurance for NAIA Terminal 3*** for the MIAA.

The selected Consultant who shall be screened and evaluated by the MIAA Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (MIAA-PEAC) in accordance with procedures of the NEDA Guidelines on the Procurement of Consulting Services for Government Projects (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 164), shall assist the MIAA in maximizing the recording, tracking and reporting of all transactions of all sources of revenues within the Terminal Area. Such Consultant shall be responsible in reviewing the process in and around the collection of Airport Terminal Revenues, identify the key operational issues to maximize revenue collections, provide alternatives that will address the identified operational issues and develop high-level implementation plan to interface the MIAA's system with the NAIA Terminal 3 operator's system, specifically identifying the critical tasks required to enable the interface.

Consultants who wish to offer their services are requested to express their desire to do so and submit an official letter of intent together with their duly accomplished and notarized prequalification statements, as provided under Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines, not later than **September 27, 2002** at the Pavements and Grounds Division, MIAA Engineering Building, MIA Road, Pasay City during official business hours only. Prequalification Forms may also be secured from the Pavements and Grounds Division Office from **September 19 to September 24, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **ELPIDIO L. MENDOZA**
Chairman
MIAA-PEAC

(PDI - Sept. 19 & 23, 2002)

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National Power Corporation

STRATEGIC POWER UTILITIES GROUP

INVITATION TO BID

SPUG-MMSS-02-0020

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, 2nd Flr., Training Center Bldg., BIR Road Cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	OPENING DATE	TIME
PB020823-PDAC1213 (PB2)	VARIOUS CONTROL AND MONITORING EQUIPMENT	SEPT. 30, 2002	10:00 A.M.
PB020603-PDAC1077 (PB2)	VARIOUS TESTING AND CALIBRATION EQUIPMENT	OCT. 02, 2002	10:00 A.M.
PB020620-PDAC1115 (PB2)	PARTS FOR NIIGATA NAPIER TURBOCHARGER	OCT. 02, 2002	02:00 P.M.
PB020916-PDJB1244 (PB2)	VARIOUS COOLING SYSTEM	OCT. 03, 2002	10:00 A.M.
SC021004-PDJB1277	GEN. PROTECTION RELAY	OCT. 04, 2002	10:00 A.M.
SC021004-PDEM016	LONG TERM HAULING GENERAL CARGOES	OCT. 4, 2002	02:00 P.M.
PB021007-PDEM1278	VARIOUS PARTS FOR CKD	OCT. 07, 2002	10.00 A.M.

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **SEPTEMBER 23, 2002** upon payment of **P100.00 per schedule,** which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization, issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between **8:00 to 11:30 a.m. only** at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI – Sept. 23, 2002)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date: September 16, 2002

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under contract for rural infrastructure component for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of **San Remigio, Antique**, as implementing partner of DAR for ARCP, invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the **Sub-Project: Construction of Nagbangi I-Agricula Farm to Market Road with RCDG Bridge — (2.88 Km.) — (Package II).**
3. Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders on **September 23-27, 2002** at the Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Ten Thousand Pesos Only (Php 10,000.00)** per set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for eligibility must be received in sealed envelopes on or before **October 2, 2002** at **3:00 PM** addressed to: **The Chairman, Bid and Award Committee,** Municipality of **San Remigio, Antique.**
5. A Pre-Bid conference shall be held on **October 11, 2002 at 9:00 AM.** Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC).
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **October 25, 2002 at 10:00 AM.** Late bids will not be accepted. The bid shall be accompanied by a GSIS bid security of **2-1/2% of the approved budget** or its equivalent and to be posted in favor of the LGU. The bid security shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The approved budget for this project is **Nine Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Two and 95/100 Pesos Only (Php 9,560,482.95).** Only Contractors/Bidders classified as **Medium Sub-Category "A"** by the CIAP with appropriate classification are the subjects of this invitation.
8. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of PD1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **ELIZABETH C. COLOSO**
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

PDI - SEPT. 20, 23, 25, 2002

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Science and Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (DOST-Wide BAC) hereby invites interested contractors who are registered with PCAB with a project size and range of at least "Medium A" for building to apply for eligibility and to bid in the forthcoming public bidding for the Construction of Academic I and Dormitory I Buildings Phase II both of the Philippine Science High School Bicol Region Campus (PSHS-BRC) and Philippine Science High School-Cagayan Valley Campus (PSHS-CVC). The approved budget for PSHS-BRC is P6,007,500.00 while that of PSHS-CVC is P6,395,200.00

Only those eligible bidders evaluated by the DOST-Wide BAC shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All eligible bidders may secure the necessary documents on the following dates:

Schedule of Activities	For PSHS-CVC	For PSHS-BRC
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	September 26, 2002, Rm. 207 DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig	September 26, 2002, Rm. 207 DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	October 4, 2002 until 5:00 p.m at Rm. 207, DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig	October 4, 2002 until 5:00 p.m. at Rm. 207, DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave. Bicutan, Taguig
Issuance of plans and other bidding documents	October 9, 2002 at the Office Multi-Infra Konsult, Inc.	October 9, 2002 at the Office of GPE Consultants and Co.
Pre-Bid Conference I	October 15, 2002, 10:00 a.m. PSHS-CVC, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	October 18, 2002; 1:00 p.m., PSHS-BRC, Goa, Camarines Sur
Opening of bids	November 6, 2002, 10:00 a.m., DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig, M.M.	November 6, 2002, 1:00 p.m., p.m., DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig, M.M.

Prospective bidders may surf our DOST website addressed at: http://www.dost.gov.ph. Eligible bidders may secure plans and other bidding documents upon payment of P3,000.00 for PSHS-CVC and P5,000.00 for PSHS-BRC non-refundable

The DOST-Wide BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and make an award to the bidder whose bid proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, DOST-Wide BAC

(PDI - Sept. 23 & 25, 2002)

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Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr V Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
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c/o Ms Marilou Ty
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Call for entries for the 2003 PBBY-Salanga Writers' Prize

THE PHILIPPINE Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) is now accepting entries for the 2003 PBBY-Salanga Writers' Prize. The contest is co-sponsored by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and The National Library. The winner will be given a cash prize of P25,000, a gold medal, and an opportunity for the work to be published. Prizes will be awarded in an appropriate ceremony to be held during the celebration of National Children's Book Day in July 2003.

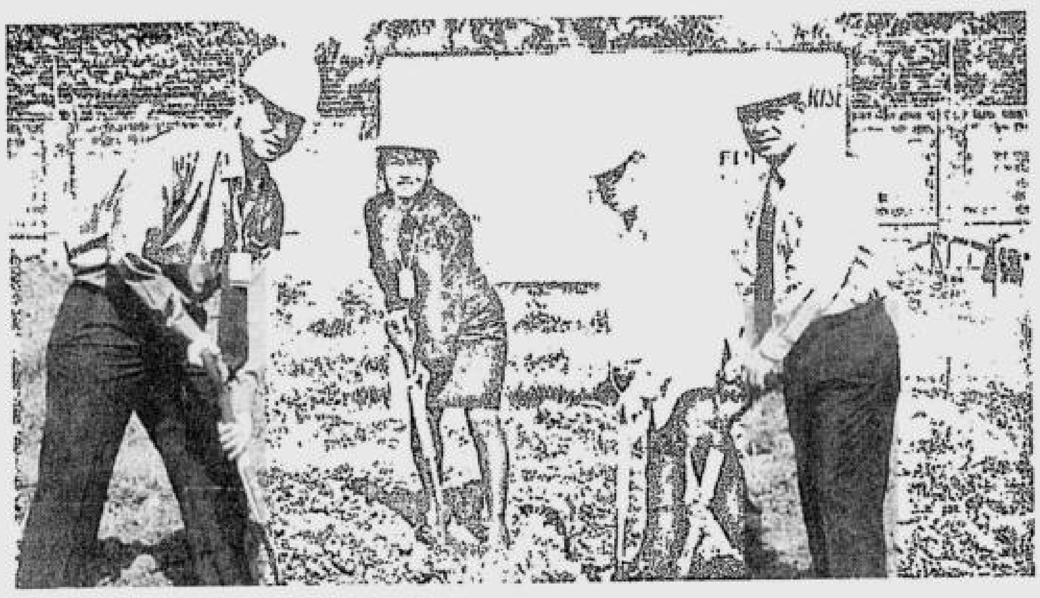
Contest rules:

- The contest is open to all Filipino citizens except those who are related to any PBBY member up to the third degree of consanguinity.
- All entries must be original, unpublished, and have not won in any previous contests. Stories should be intended for children aged 6 to 12 years old. The plot and the sequence must be capable of sustaining an illustrated book of 28 to 32 pages.
- Entries may be in Filipino or English.
- Entries must be typewritten, double spaced on short bond paper. Maximum length is five pages.
- A contestant may send in more than one entry.
- Each entry must be signed by a pen name only. Five copies of each entry should be placed in an envelope, on the face of which only the pen name of the contestant should appear.
- Together with each entry, contestants must submit a second envelope, on the face of which the pen name shall appear, must contain the contestant's full name, address, contact numbers, short literary background, and a notarized certification from the author, vouching for the originality of the entry and for the freedom of the organizers from any liability from the infringement of copywright in case of publication.
- All entries must be sent to the PBBY Secretariat care of Adarna House Inc., 73-A Scout Limbaga Street, Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City.
- All entries must be received by the PBBY Secretariat no later than 5 p.m. of Nov. 5.
- Winners will be announced no later that Nov. 15.

The winning story will be the basis for the PBBY Illustrators' Prize. The winning story and illustration are guaranteed publication with the help of the PBBY. For more details, interested parties may call the Philippine Board on Books for Young People at 372-3548 or 49, fax 372-4204, or e-mail pbby@adarna.com.ph addressed to the PBBY Secretariat.

PLDT, POEA RENEW PARTNERSHIPS

PLDT and POEA recently renewed the memorandum of agreement covering the PLDT call mall at the POEA lobby, sponsorship of the POEA travel advisories and support for POEA's worker education programs. Shown during the contract signing are (seated, from left) PLDT marketing services AVP Raul Alvarez and POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz. Standing, from left, are PLDT marketing services' Sharlyn Lim and Ana May Jovellanos, POEA directors Ricardo Casco and Nimfa de Guzman, and POEA deputy administrator Victoria Berciles.



KRAFT BUILDS EMPLOYEES' HEALTH AND FITNESS GYM

In the interest of looking after the total wellness of its employees, Kraft Foods Philippines Inc. (KFP) has begun construction of its very own health and fitness gym. The gym will give the employees the opportunity to exercise and keep fit using the various gym equipment. After a good workout, employees can then unwind and relax in the sauna. The health and fitness gym will be open to all Kraft employees and is concrete proof that Kraft truly cares for its employees. Breaking the ground at the gym's future site are (from left) Ferdinand dela Cruz, KFP president and general manager, Rossana Silvestre, KFP human resources manager, Francisco Ariston, KFP plant manager, and Nicasio Lim, director, human resources, Kraft Foods International-Southeast Asia. The Kraft Health and Fitness Gym will be completed towards the end of this year.

ALCATEL
N INTERNET WORLD

ALCATEL EXEC VISITS MANILA

Nico Vernieuwe, vice president, worldwide business development and marketing with Alcatel's broadband networking division (BND), presents the Alcatel experience in the deployment of broaband solutions worldwide during a press lunch held at the Oakwood Premiere in Makati City. Vernieuwe was in Manila recently as part of an Asean tour to promote Alcatel's broadband networking solutions portfolio including its industry-leading DSL solutions. He stressed that broadband data services offers the highest growth potential for traditional telecoms operators as margins for voice services drop.

Country's fastest CT Scan inaugurated in time for MDH anniversary

MANILA Doctors Hospital now has the distinction of having the country's fastest computed tomography scan unit (CT scan). This innovative more coincides with the hospital's anniversary drive towards closer patient relations and world-class service.

Making four high-resolution images in one rotation lasting for half a second, the new CT scan unit remarkably shortens procedures, lowering the discomfort level for patients, and vastly improving speed and efficiency. Previously, conventional CT scans of the abdomen took two whole minute – now it's finished in 18 seconds. The Department of Radiology's diagnostic capabilities have been significantly boosted, accommodating up to 50 CT scan examinations per day. Moreover, the images are clearer and more precise.

The Siemens Somatom Volume Zoom Computed Tomography System was inaugurated with Dr. Placido Mapa Jr., MMSI president, as guest of honor. On hand to assist in the ribbon cutting and blessing of the new machine were Drs. Gracia Tiong, hospital director and Dante Morales, medical director, Sr. Estelle Marie Camagan, administrator, Dr. Mariano Kho, assistant medical director, Alex Pe, Siemen's vice president for sales, and Dr. Cynthia Joy Maxino-Uy, Department of Radiology chair.

The new multi-slice CT scan machine has a wide range of applications that were not available with older units. These new applications include coronary artery calcium scoring, CT angiography, neuroperfusion studies, virtual colonoscopy, virtual bronchoscopy, pulmonary embolism workup and pulmonary screening for lung carcinoma. These studies give the physicians the ability to detect and evaluate various conditions of the heart, brains, lungs, kidneys, large intestines and liver with accuracy and clarity.

The acquisition of the new state-of-the-art CT scan machine is another testimony to the commitment of Manila Doctors Hospital to its patients and clients, particularly during the hospital's 46th anniversary.

For inquiries, call Manila Doctors Hospital at 524-3011 local 2432.

P2 MILLION FOR SABAH DEPORTEES

In response to the call for private sector assistance to the government's ongoing relief efforts for Filipinos who have been recently forced to return to the country from their homes in Sabah, Malaysia, Metrobank and the Metrobank Foundation donated P2 million through President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The donation is intended to help address the urgent need for food, clothing, medicines and transportation of thousands of Filipinos who have been ferried out of Malaysia during the past two weeks. Many refugees have been found to be suffering from physical and psychological trauma. Ms Macapagal is shown thanking Metrobank Foundation president Dr. Placido L. Mapa Jr. while Metrobank and Metrobank Foundation chair George SK Ty looks on.

HFHP RECOGNIZES AAI

Agatep Associates Inc. (AAI) president and CEO Charlie A. Agatep (second from right) poses with Habitat for Humanity Philippines Inc. (HFHP) Youth Build 2002 national steering committee co-chairp Margie Moran-Floirendo (second from left) after receiving plaques of appreciation during the closing ceremonies of youth Build 2002 at Muntinlupa, Alabang. HFHP recognized the role Agatep played in generating awareness on HFHP Youth Build 2002's mission and activities. This year, HFHP built 250 houses for Filipinos belonging to the lowest 30 percent of the country's population. Also shown are AAI general manager Audrey A. General and PR consultant Michelle Agatep.

Mini Masters in franchise management

ROBERTO de Ocampo, president of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), welcomes participants to the "Mini Masters in Franchise Management" program today at the AIM. A first in Asia, the program is being offered to local franchisors by the Philippine Franchise Association under the sanction of the US-based Institute of Franchise Executives. The Icfe offers a substantive mastery of franchising to successful candidates and confers the title of Certified Franchise Executive (CFE). Ways to earn the CFE designation are through core curriculum, elective curriculum, participation, and experience. A minimum 3,500 credits is required to earn CFE designation. The AIM program is equivalent to 400 credits, while attendance to the 10th International Franchise Conference on Sept. 25 and 26 at the Westin Philippine Plaza is equivalent to 300 units.

Catholic educators in confab

PRESIDENTS and representatives of Catholic universities, colleges and schools from all over the country will meet to assess the current situation of their educational institutions in the light of new Philippine realities, emerging educational trends and pastoral priorities; and to identify strategies to further enhance their competencies. More than 1,300 delegates are expected to participate in the National Convention of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (Ceap) from Sept. 25 to 27 at the Xavier Sports and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City. The theme for the Convention is "Looking Within, Seeing Beyond: Process, Purpose and Passion in Catholic Education Today." The keynote address will be delivered by Fr. Bienvenido Nebres SJ, president of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Outlet Yard's September sale

IT'S SHOP till you drop from Sept. 27 to 30 at The Outlet Yard. Avail yourself of even bigger discounts from your favorite retail shops like Maldita, Dickies, Hammerhead, Anonymous, Penshoppe/Oxygen and Fred Perry. On Sept. 27 and 28, The Outlet Yard will host Ink Xposure 2002, a tattoo convention. Activities include a live tattoo competition and one-of-a-kind seminars of noted practitioners and professionals on Kalinga/Cordillera tattoo, exquisite art tattoo and tribal tattoo. There will be jam sessions by popular progressive bands like Fatal Posporo, Itchy Worms, Maple Syrup and Slapshock during the two-day event. The Outlet Yard is the "Araw Araw Sale Mall" located along Quezon Avenue, near National Bookstore. For inquiries, call 373-3528

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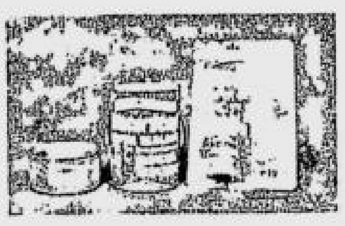

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Assemblers slam new car dev't plan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHILE the government's restrictions on used vehicle imports and export incentives package have drawn cheers from the local auto industry, the proposed excise tax program under the new Motor Vehicle Development Program has been widely jeered at by assemblers.

A top official of a Japanese automaker said most of the industry's players were dissatisfied with the tax reforms that the trade and finance departments were proposing.

Most assemblers have vowed to block these reforms once a draft bill containing the proposed tax changes goes to Congress, he said.

He said most industry players opposed the government's decision to slash the price ceiling on vehicles eligible for the minimum tax rate of 3 percent to P500,000 from P600,000.

The lowering of the price threshold is crucial for makers of Asian utility vehicles, pickups and vans, which account for more than half of total industry sales.

While these units are currently exempt from taxes under the "10-seater rule," they are likely to be slapped with a 15-percent excise tax with the new tax schedule since they are sold for between P500,000 and P1 million each.

In lieu of the trade and finance department's tax formula, the industry will continue to lobby for a two-tier tax system that it proposed last month.

The industry proposal has a separate tax schedule for passenger cars and sport utility vehicles, and AUVs, vans and pickups.

Under the industry's proposal, cars and SUVs would have excise taxes of between 10 percent for units worth less than P1.001 million and up to 50 percent for those worth more than P3 million, while AUVs, vans and pickups would have taxes of between 3 percent for units worth no more than P700,000 and 50 percent for those worth more than P3 million.

The government proposal, which makes no distinction between cars and commercial vehicles, seeks an excise tax of between 3 percent for units worth lower than P501,000 and 100 percent for units worth P2 million.

The Department of Trade and Industry has discontinued the tax-exempt status of AUVs, pickups and vans, while motorcycles, trucks and buses will continue to be excluded from the excise tax.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II admitted that the government needed to reach a consensus with the assemblers before forwarding the proposed tax reforms to Congress to avoid any delays in their passage.

Roxas said the tax reforms would face rough sailing in Congress without the industry's endorsement.

ASSEMBLERS /B10

WORKERS labor under the sun to complete a building in the financial district of Makati. Philippine goverment has focused on the domestic market to revive the economy.

AFP

RP in need of a single financial regulator, economist says

By Elena R. Torrijos

THERE are good arguments for the country to consolidate supervision of the financial sector under one lead government agency, as many countries have done or are starting to do, according to an economist for the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

"If one looks at the current financial structure, the dominance of universal banks and the introduction of bancassurance clearly indicate that the consolidated financial sector supervision approach will be appropriate for the Philippines. At the very least, it's something that should be seriously considered," PIDS research fellow Melanie Milo said.

Three government agencies—the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, and Insurance Commission—supervise three major financial sectors: banking, securities and insurance.

Milo said it would make sense to designate the BSP as "lead regulator" because of the dominance of banks in the financial sector and the agency's experience in a deregulated environment.

"It can then set the standard for the other regulators in the sector. However, it will require high levels of expertise in risk-areas common to all financial service industries," Milo said.

Alternatively, she suggested, the Philippines could set up a council similar to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council of the United States that would be composed of the heads of the various regulatory agencies and whose main task would be to promote consistency in the examination and supervision of financial institutions.

"Such a council can then lay the groundwork for consolidated financial sector supervision," Milo said.

Recently, the SEC urged lawmakers to seriously consider adopting the single regulator concept at a future time because such a system would "bring about cost effectiveness and uniform regulatory approaches and enforcement."

The SEC said the problem of deciding which government agency—the SEC or the Insurance Commission—should regulate the pre-need industry, for instance, could be resolved by taking a look at models that had only one regulator supervising banking, insurance and capital markets.

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SOLDIER ANSWERS CALL OF DUTY

Parayno: Perfect guy for imperfect job?

PARAYNO

By Clarissa S. Batino

EVEN his closest friends were reluctant for him to accept the job as head of the snakepit that is the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

But in the end, the call of country was stronger for Guillermo Parayno, a former colonel of the Philippine Navy, who earned the distinction of having reformed what was then perceived to be a hopeless Bureau of Customs.

Change manager

Tagged as a change manager, Parayno's skills and disposition made him the perfect guy for an imperfect job, says friends.

During a frenetic weekend, Parayno met with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in one of the coffee shops in Makati. He knew exactly what the finance chief wanted as the position had been offered to him several times in the past.

Back then, he was able to turn it down.

Friends wondered why this time around, he was not able to say no even if the people closest to him knew the last thing on earth he wanted was to go back to government.

Torn between a lot of things, among them financial considerations, the soldier in Parayno prevailed and a week later. On August 30, he took his oath as the new commissioner of the BIR, filling the post abruptly vacated by Rene Bañez on Aug. 19. Parayno graduated magna cum laude from the Philippine Military Academy in 1970.

Heavy heart

A friend of Parayno attests that he seemed to have accepted the job with a heavy heart. Even Camacho says he could not blame Parayno because in joining government, he would definitely be giving up a lot.

"It is only now that he is starting to reap the fruits of his successful stint with the Customs. We know it is a big sacrifice and this is why the government is very thankful that he said yes," says Camacho.

From a very lucrative consulting business with the private sector, Parayno not only agreed to head 12,000 BIR employees who gained notoriety during the stint of his predecessor but he would do it for a measly monthly take-home pay of P30,000.

After leaving Customs where he was commissioner from 1992 to 1998, he became chair and president of the Lina Group, president of his own consulting firm, director of Toyota Motors Corp., consultant to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and the Department of Finance.

The Lina Group is involved in air cargo services through a global partnership with Federal Express International.

Having successfully instituted an efficient computerized system at the Customs, the Macapagal administration is banking on him to do the same thing to the BIR.

More than that, however, the government is hoping that Parayno's people skills would mend the bureaucracy that gave his predecessor Bañez a lot of headaches.

Bañez had minced no words in accusing the bureaucracy of sabotaging his reform efforts. The soft-spoken Parayno is touted to be the one who has the skills and the temperament to work well with the incorrigible government workers.

Buckling to work

During his first days in office, Parayno buckled down to work and sent nine staffers for investigation on alleged involvement with the P431-million tax diversion scam uncovered in the Binangonan branch of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

He also forwarded to the Office of the Solicitor General the filing of appropriate cases against 11 companies found cheating on their

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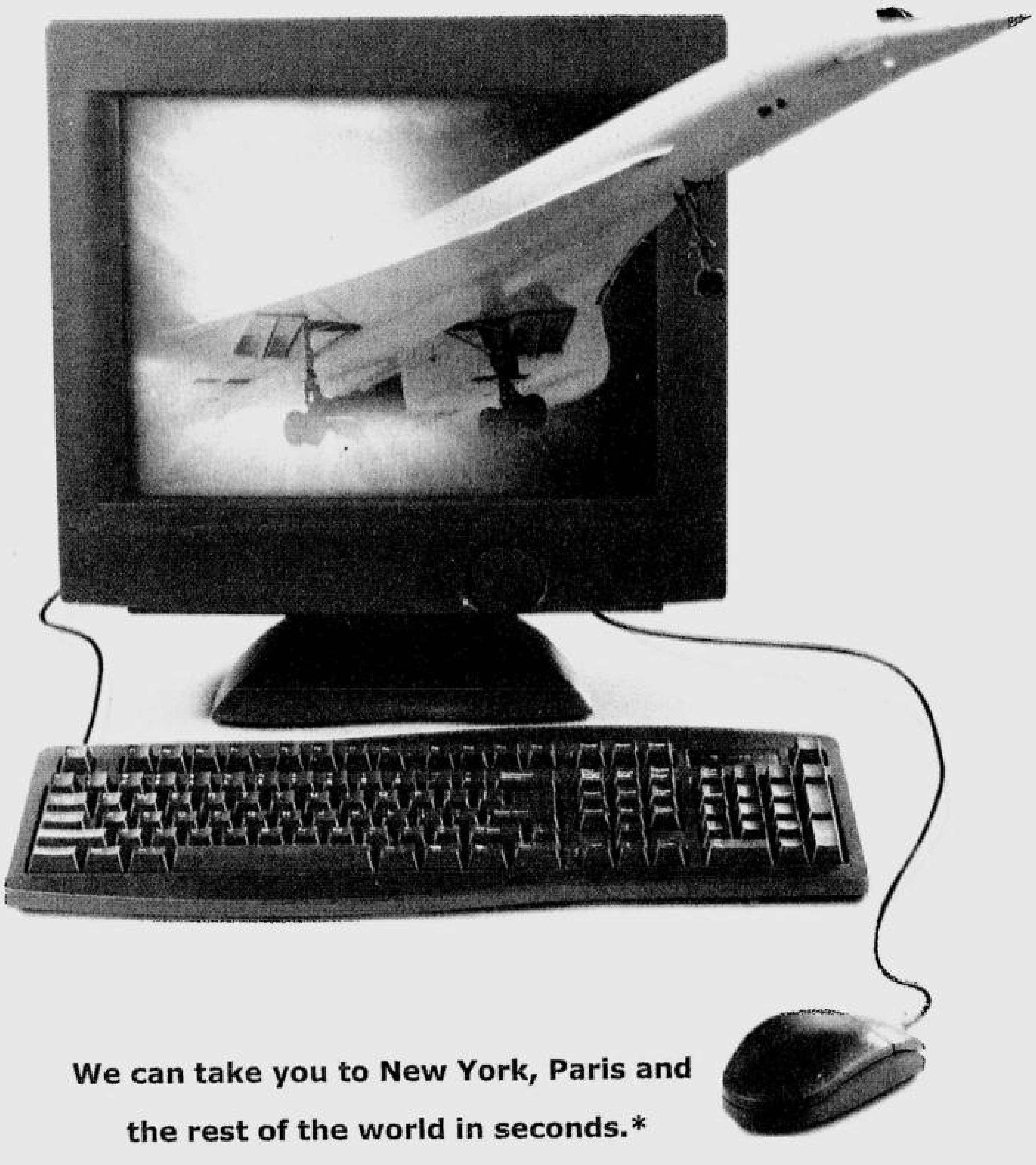

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Vanities for men and women make cash registers hum

By Betty Uy-Regala
Contributor

ZIPPED close, it looks somewhat like a Bible leather case. But the similarity between the Holy Book and Braun Buffel's traveling kit quickly ends upon closer inspection. For one, the fine leather has the bull (buffalo in Germany) insignia and once undone it opens to all items executives need on a business trip. Apart from the articles for hygiene, Braun Buffel's compact traveling kit has three adapters for electrical outlets that follow the standards of different countries.

Based on the inventory of the first Braun Buffel store in the Philippines at the fourth level of The Podium in Pasig City, the traveling kit has been doing some traveling itself from the stock room to the customers' shopping bags.

JEREMY Cham with Christine Braun, managing director of Braun Buffel.

Its jewelry box for both men and women with specially designed mounts for watches has likewise been ringing the cash register frequently.

YOU might have a P100,000 watch, but where do you keep it?
JOHNNY VILLENA

"People usually leave their watches on tables or are randomly placed with other accessories in a case. Our jewelry box organizes these things. *Sayang naman* if it's a Rolex and you don't put it in its proper place," says Jeremy Cham of Montegani Inc., the Philippine franchisee of Braun Buffel.

The traveling kit and jewelry box form part of the functional vanity cases that the Braun Buffel shop offers. Braun Buffel, founded in 1887 in Kirn, Germany, sells kits for shining shoes, manicure, shaving and sewing. It also has palm pilot holders, portable tie hangers, liquid flasks and cigar case. Prices of these items range from P1,999.75 to P8,899.75.

More than being the master of the little stuff, Braun Buffel is better known as the quality leather maker of brief case, bags, wallets, belts, and watches for men and lady executives. These retail for P3,000 to P34,000 apiece.

"Compared with other brands which is on the level of Braun Buffel, our products are still cheaper by 30 percent to 40 percent," Cham says.

Cham only orders a manageable quantity of each item. Customers are therefore advised to immediately buy a leather item they like since the store doesn't keep a fat inventory to easily give way for the next collection.

Female clients who purchase from the Braun Buffel store come in few and far between; it's the male customers in their late 20s and up belonging to the A market who are their regular buyers.

"We found out that they purchase our products as a gift for their girlfriends or wives. They have heard of Braun Buffel from their travels in Asia-Pacific particularly in Singapore and Europe," he relates.

Cham wants to bring down the prices to cut across market segments and he plans to do this by opening two more stores within the year. The store's encouraging sales for September has strengthened his resolve for expansion.

It was a different scenario four years ago. Cham remembers that it took his family a good three years before deciding on franchising the Braun Buffel brand. Cham's supplier recommended them to the Braun Buffel company which was on the lookout for a distributor in the Philippines to explore further the Asia market.

Cham's family, who also manages the McJim product line, was their choice. "They came to us and asked us if we could distribute Braun Buffel products. We sat on it for three years because Filipinos are more inclined to patronize American brands. They rarely buy European products because they tend to have designs that are too high fashion for their taste," he explains.

Another reason that the Braun family was keen on getting the Chams as the exclusive distributor of their products in the Philippines is that both families have been in the business of leather for decades.

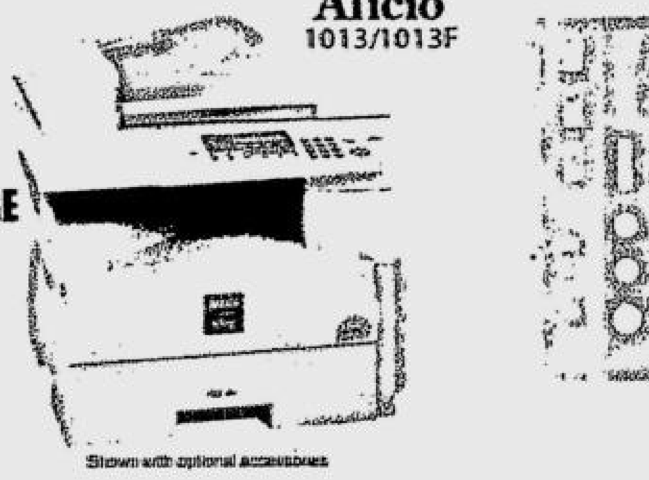
The Braun brand has been in existence for 115 years while McJim has been in the market for 34 years.

Although economic indicators diagnose Asian countries as not having fully recovered from the 1997 regional crisis, the family still opened the first Braun Buffel shop in the Philippines as part of its long-term plan.

"When is the right time to go inside? When the economy is good, everyone wants to go in but the door that we're entering is very small. It can only fit a few people. When the economy is down, nobody wants to go in and for me that's the best time to build and get ready for the next big thing that will happen to our economy," Cham reasons.

Eventually, the Chams accepted the offer on the table. They want to position themselves in the leather business with a local label (McJim) and a tie-up with a foreign brand (Braun Buffel). "What we're doing right now is positioning. We're preparing for the advent of foreigners because of the liberalized importation of goods under the WTO agreement.

"When that time comes, we have already developed the brand and the market. We have covered every prime location. Those who will come in later will have to settle for new brands that they have to develop and unwanted places."



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New directions in management education

MAPping THE FUTURE
Niceto S. Poblador

IN THE most recent edition of the book, "Business: An Integrative Framework," Fry, Stoner and Hattwick noted: "Today's businesses are eliminating barriers between functional departments and are seeking to be boundariless organizations. They are using cross-functional teams and self-directed teams. They are operating on a much more customer-centered basis. Managers are focusing more on the big picture and discouraging functional autonomy."

These notable developments in management practice reflect two characteristics of today's business environment: rapid and unpredictable change and increasing complexity. These are largely the result of phenomenal developments in Information Technology, significant changes in the global economic and political infrastructure, and major scientific breakthroughs that have greatly enhanced our understanding of physical, social and biological phenomena.

Regrettably, management education, by and large, has failed to keep pace with these developments. Undergraduate and graduate programs in business education offered by colleges and universities both here and abroad have been designed in more placid times and have long been overtaken by events. They do not adequately prepare managers for today's surge in business environment.

In a world of increasing dynamism and complexity, management problems defy neat categorization and are not "solved" by the simple application of standard decision rules or pat formulas. Today's managers must therefore have a high tolerance for ambiguity, and the dexterity to handle situations that involve a high degree of interdependence among several—if not indeed all—aspects of the firm's operations.

Toward an integrated approach

Currently, existing academic programs in management have three salient characteristics: Subjects are typically designed around the traditional management functions (marketing, finance, production and operations, and human resource management), specific technical/analytical skills (accounting and control, management information systems, quantitative analysis), or special topics such as business ethics and business law. Students are taught standard decision rules that are appropriate, if at all, to well-defined and highly structured decision situations. Integration is attempted at the end of the program with the capstone strategic management course.

Let us examine these attributes in turn. Designing courses around specific functional areas or technical expertise gives a fragmented view of the management process. By contrast, real-world management problems occur in complex situations that involve a large number of interdependent variables, variables that cut across the different aspects of the firm's operations. Focusing on a specific subset of variables at a time gives too partial a view of managerial issues. Decisions affecting one managerial unit may have serious repercussions elsewhere in the organization and their overall impact becomes uncertain.

Today's managers must therefore have a holistic view of the management process and must be able to simultaneously handle wide-ranging and interrelated issues that have both short- and long-term implications on organizational performance.

Most management courses aim to develop in the students a high degree of analytical skills. The teaching process invariably involves the specification of well-defined problems, establishing the precise interrelationship among a few relevant variables, and finally applying the appropriate decision rules. The aim of this exercise is typically to achieve a specific objective of a particular unit of operation. In the real world of business, however, decision situations can neither be precisely defined nor scrutinized in isolation. Problems cannot be solved by the mere expedient of applying standard formulas or decision rules. Each problem is unique and requires equally unique "solutions." Solutions that have been found useful in some organizations need not be as useful in others. Solutions that in the past have led to positive results for an organization need not be equally effective in the future.

The manager's task is therefore to device creative and innovative ways of dealing with a continuously unfolding situation, and not merely to apply what are considered to be the "correct," "time-tested" or "acceptable" prescriptions.

Managers who are aware of the wider and longer-run implications of their choices must have a strategic frame of mind. A strategic perspective cannot be developed in a single "integrative" strategy course at the end of the MBA or BBA program. It must be impressed on the student from day one of the academic program and throughout the entire period of formal study.

If currently existing management programs are inadequate in preparing managers for today's business environment, what, then, is an acceptable one? There are obviously several alternatives to choose from. The rest of this paper will elaborate on one recommended approach.

We have noted that designing courses around the traditional managerial functions or specific disciplines gives a fragmented view of the management process. An alternative criterion is to design courses around problem areas.

But there are many ways of classifying management problems. Should it be by type of business, by level of decision, or by type of activity, or by some other criterion? Whatever criterion is chosen, the problem areas so identified must be exhaustive and must constitute a coherent set.

For this purpose, we suggest a re-conceptualization of the business enterprise as a value-creating and value allocating social institution. This conception of the firm represents a move away from the traditional profit or "bottom line" orientation of the firm. It is more in keeping with the emergent notion of stakeholdership (as against shareholdership) as the basis of corporate governance.

With this broad definition of the firm in mind, it is now possible to identify two major "streams" of courses for the typical MBA program, the specific courses within each stream (defined by "problem area"), the topics subsumed under each subject and finally, the basic concepts or ideas that are germane to the handling of the entire range of managerial issues within each problem area.

Proposed framework

Outlined below is our proposed general framework for a graduate program in business management.

1. Introduction: Managing the viable enterprise. This introductory course introduces the student to the major elements of strategic management. It discusses alternative strategies that may be employed to achieve competitiveness and sustainability. It will serve as the basic integrating framework around which the rest of the program will be built.

2. Value-creating stream. This stream of courses deals with the various strategies that the firm may employ to enhance the value of its products and services and to manage costs in order to maximize economic value added. Among the courses that may fall under this stream are the following:

Managing the value chain: This course looks at the various considerations in determining the horizontal boundaries of the enterprise, or the extent upstream or downstream it will operate along the firm's supply and distribution chain. A major concern here is the minimization of the costs associated with doing business with other firms, or "transactions costs," along with those incurred in administering the firm's internal operations (so-called "agency costs").

Managing the firm's product mix: Yet another concern of the enterprise is determining the range of products and service that it will provide to its customers. In order to maximize value and reduce costs to acceptable levels, the firm must choose a mix of products and services that are sufficiently complementary as to yield synergies both in distribution and in production.

Managing structure and process in organizations: This course looks into the organization's culture and organizational architecture. It explores alternative structures and managerial process as well as value orientations that are conducive to more efficient and effective operations under conditions of rapid change and increasing uncertainty.

Managing production operations and technology: The use of appropriate production techniques and operating procedures is part of the firm's overall strategy for cost effectiveness to insure its competitiveness. This course deals with issues relating to this aspect of strategy.

Managing the firm's financial resources: This course explores alternative ways by which the enterprise can minimize its cost of funds and the cost of its financial operations.

3. Value allocation stream. This stream of courses deals with the allocation of the value created by the firm among its stakeholders, primarily its owners (or shareholders), its customers, its workers, and the larger community in which it operates. Courses under this stream include:

Creating consumer value: It is commonplace among progressive enterprises to pursue a "customer focused" business strategy. This course explores alternative techniques by which to implement such a strategy. It includes a wide range to topics such as pricing decisions, customer care, product design and development, market development, and a host of sales-promotional activities intended to enhance the perceived value of the firm's products and services.

Creating worker value: This course is intended to demonstrate the need for business and other forms of enterprises to show concern for their workers' wellbeing. It includes such topics as managing the reward and incentive system and enhancing the work environment.

Corporate citizenship: This subject looks into the various ways by which the enterprise can contribute to sustainable development by setting aside part of its resources to preserve the environment and to enhance the social and economic life of the community in which it operates.

Existing courses in business management invariably include "tool" subjects such as statistical analysis, managerial economics, accounting and control, and quantitative methods. We believe that these subjects, along with other specialized ones such as business ethics and the management of change, should be factored into the problem areas we have identified instead of being offered as "stand alone" courses. We feel that the relevant concepts are better internalized if introduced in the context of the problems or situations under discussion. Including these subjects in the regular curriculum only serves to clutter up the program and unnecessarily subjects the learner to "information overload."

If desired, elective courses may be offered toward the end of the academic program on special applications of management lore. These may include the management of SMEs, hotel and restaurant management, among others. It is our firm belief that management is a generic set of techniques that is applicable to all types of enterprises.

Earlier in the article, we argued against the use of standard decision rules and management "principles." We reasoned that this approach is inappropriate in dealing with complex and dynamic situations. It gives undue emphasis on the WHAT and HOW, and little on the WHY. To be effective in today's complex and dynamic business environment, managers must understand the economic, social and behavioral dynamics that underlie business situations, and must therefore be made familiar with the relevant social science concepts.

(The author who is a professional lecturer at the University of the Philippines and De La Salle University. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Parayno: Perfect guy for imperfect job?

From page C1

value-added tax obligations.

He says the two tasks were already on his desk and were among those left by his predecessor.

"I am confident that Commissioner Parayno who carries a track record of an effective change manager has what it takes to take the bureau onto the next stage of the reform agenda," notes Camacho.

600 demand letters

True enough, Parayno is taking his mandate seriously. Last Monday, he had sent demand letters to 600 companies whose identities he did not bother to find out, fearing that it would introduce an element of subjectivity that the BIR could not afford at this time.

"I don't want to know who these companies are. *Baka may makilala pa ako, mahirap na,*" he says jokingly.

The companies were among those found to be understating their sales and services, allowing them to pay a lower amount of VAT than what was appropriate.

Parayno says the improving BIR technology could already detect these irregularities and so cheating companies beware.

"We want to tell everybody that they could no longer escape the BIR. If they intend to put one over us, we would eventually know," says Parayno.

The list of 600 companies, says the BIR chief, is just an installment. More erring firms are expected to fall into the hands of the new and improved internal revenue organization.

Parayno vows the rules of the ballgame in the BIR have started to change and those resisting the stricter policies better know where their priorities lie. This message, he notes, goes for both the BIR employees and officers as well as the taxpayers.

The all these transformation, Parayno only has a word to say. Tough.

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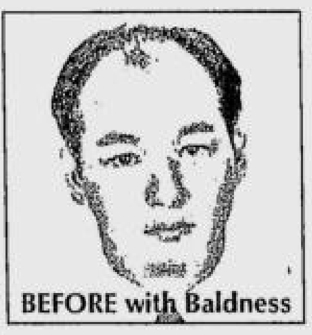

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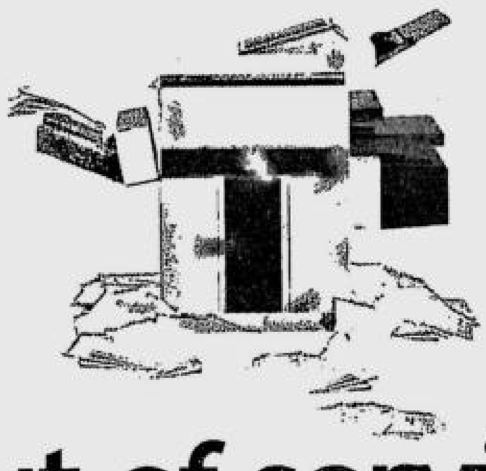

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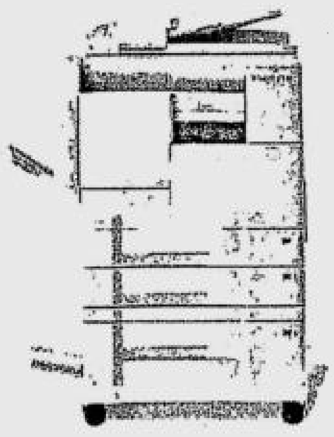

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Message of H.E. Ambassador Saleh Moh'd. Al-Ghamdi on the Occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia September 23, 2002

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh!

THE FOUNDATION of modern Saudi Arabia was laid by the late King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud in 1932. Within the next few decades, Saudi Arabia has become a modern and advanced country. It is founded on the old heritage and is deeply rooted in the religion of Islam.

The remarkable story of Saudi Arabia's transformation from a country largely unchanged for centuries to one which today boasts the modern amenities and services as well as a thriving, sophisticated economy, was due to the implementation of King Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Saud's vision for Saudi Arabia which continues to be carried out through the work of his son's and flourishes today under the stewardship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fah Ibn Abdul Aziz.

From being a poor country with limited resources in the 1930s, Saudi Arabia has emerged as the leading economic power in the Middle East by the end of the 20th century, and that can be attributed to the following:

First, Saudi Arabia has discovered vast oil and gas reserves estimated at one-fourth of world reserves, giving it a unique place in the world energy scenario.

Second, the Kingdom has made a breakthrough in reducing its dependence on oil by a planned process of diversification of its economic structure, with emphasis on industrial development.

Third, it has become one of the world's leading exporters of petrochemicals.

Fourth, the standard of living of its people has improved more or less matching the industrially-developed countries.

All these have been achieved without losing its cultural moorings, the guiding principle of socio-economic policies being strict observance of the Islamic Sharia code.

The seven decades of Saudi Arabia's modern economic transformation can be attributed to the wisdom and vision of its founding leader, the late King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, who envisaged the big scope for oil in Saudi Arabia in the early 1930s and decided to invite western oil companies to explore it, and from that time on Saudi Arabia continues to achieve miracles in its economic progress.

True to that tradition established by its great visionary leader, after 70 years, the Saudi government of King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, has given the green signal last year to eight international oil companies to launch mammoth gas development projects. The $25 billion gas development plan is the beginning and not the end of the fruits of the current drive for economic liberalization. The plan is a breakthrough and this will hopefully be followed by new waves of foreign investment not only in the energy sector, but also in industrial and infrastructure sectors.

Development on such a large scale over the relatively short span of seven decades, is the result of sound planning and well-defined goals, including a growing emphasis on expansion of the private sector. With the 1st Five-Year Development Plan of 1970, Saudi Arabia started on its well-navigated course to economic achievement. Since then, the Kingdom's steady but dramatic industrial and economic transformation has been accomplished through the careful guidance and active support of the government. Last year marked the full start of 7th Development Plan.

In order to attain the objectives of the 7th Five-Year Plan which was unveiled the other year, last year's budget was planned to end the spectra of deficit budget. The 2001 budget had the distinction of being a balanced budget that would give priority for human resources development and improvement of the quality of life of every citizen, the development of new educational institutions and medical facilities.

In this year's budget, 27 percent or SR54.3 billion, the largest share goes to education. This reflects the primary importance that leaders of Saudi Arabia is giving to the education of the Saudi youth.

Furthermore, among the countless grace that the Almighty Allah bestowed to Saudi Arabia, and making it unique in the world, is by making it the land of the Two Holy Mosques and entrusting to its people the honor of serving the visitors of these two holy places. From the 1st Five-Year Plan to the present 7th Plan, billions of dollars have been spent by the Saudi government to meet the needs of pilgrims for safety and comfort.

On one hand, Saudi Arabia has given US $820,098,702 of loans and assistance to developing countries.

Let me touch the ever-going strong and multi-faceted relations between Saudi Arabia and the Republic of the Philippines, specifically on the status of the OFWs in the Kingdom in the midst of Saudization program and the global economic slowdown. The presence of some 900,000 OFWs in Saudi Arabia has definitely strengthened the relations of our two countries and is beneficial to both our peoples. Almost 30 percent of the more than 400,000 land based OFWs deployed in the first seven months of this year went to Saudi Arabia. For more than two decades, Saudi Arabia has the distinction of being the second biggest employer of Filipinos, and this particular aspect or our relation touch the lives of millions of Filipinos and Saudis alike, and the very recent visit of our Minister of Labor to Manila punctuates the importance the Saudi government is giving to this factor.

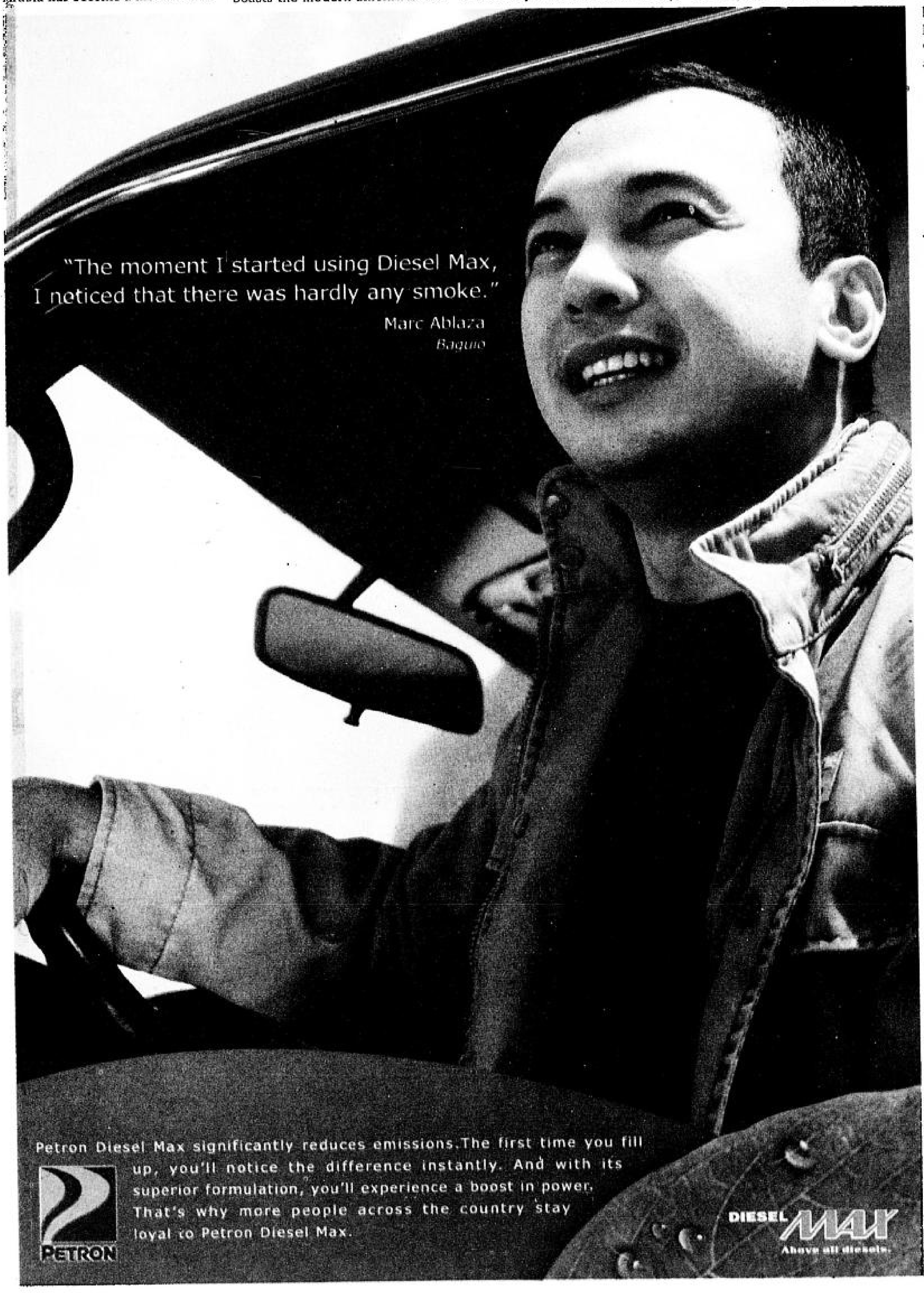
On the Philippine side early this year, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas visited Saudi Arabia. I will accompany the Philippine President for a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Just last week, a high level media delegation visited Saudi Arabia, and the visit of a delegation from the Philippine Senate, headed by Senator Franklin Drilon is being worked out for early next year, and that we will very son sign a Security Cooperation Agreement.

I am also happy to acknowledge that it was the time of the new DFA Secretary Blas F. Ople, then Minister of Labor, that opened the gate for OFWs to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. Also as president of the ILO, many of our top officials had the opportunities to exchange views with him in strengthening our labor relations. Prior to his appointment as DFA secretary, in one of his articles, he endorsed the Saudi Peace Plan for Palestine, as a viable lasting solution to end the cycle of violence going on in Palestine and Israel.

Lastly, to the surprise of both friends and critics, here and abroad, the Philippine economy once again stood out amid a regional slowdown, showing more strength than anyone had expected. There us no doubt that the resiliency of the economy is due, among others, to the expertise and total commitment of the country's team of economic managers headed by no less than the President herself, in pushing the economy forward. Thus, I am extending my congratulations to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her economic managers for a job well done.

I would like also to thank the publisher and editorial staff of the Philippine Daily Inquirer for publishing this message and for their balanced reporting of both national and international news and issues and also of the in-depth analysis of their fearless and very knowledgeable columnists.

Mabuhay!



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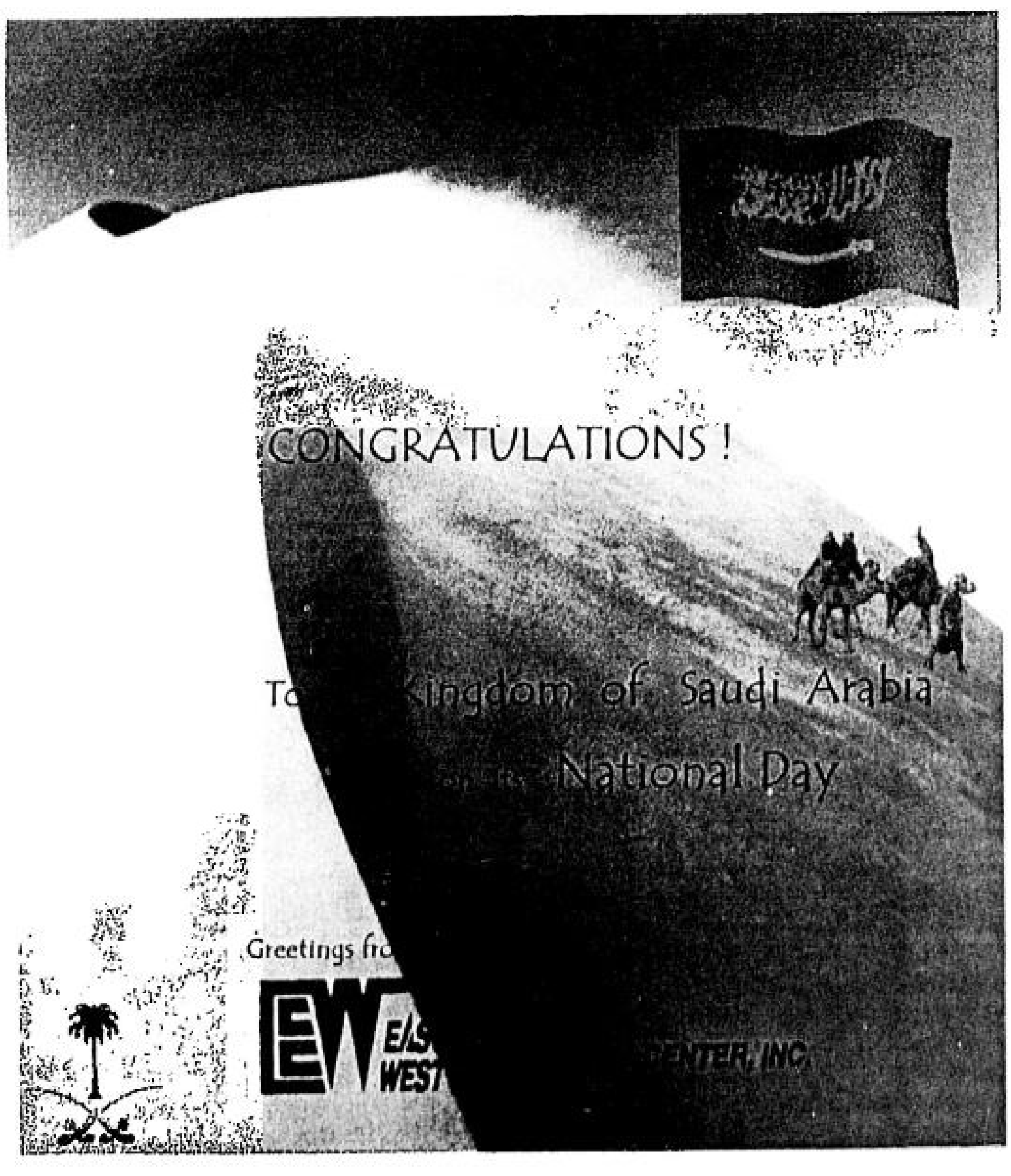

The Saudi Arabian Economic Transformation

By H.E. Ambassador Saleh Moh'd. Al-Ghamdi

A. Building Upon Success

Saudi Arabia celebrates its National Day today, the 23rd day of September, with the upbeat mood. This is not so because of the continued high price of oil but because it continues to play an important role in the stabilization of the price of oil in the world market. Furthermore, this year witnesses the start of the 2nd year of the implementation of programs and policies under the 7th Five-Year Plan (2000-2005).

The story of Saudi Arabia's economic transformation is one of the remarkable events of the 20th century. Indeed, few countries have achieved such a fundamental economic change in so short a span of time.

That Saudi Arabia has managed to bring about such development and growth is even more remarkable in that it has done so without weakening the social fabric or adversely affecting the cherished traditions, values and beliefs of society—the undesirable side effects often associated with rapid socioeconomic change in other parts of the developing world.

Yet even as Saudi Arabia's economic expansion is now proverbial, the mistaken belief persists that the nation is reliant solely on oil for its economic health. That oil has played a vital role in the nation's economy, and continues to do so in the present, is without dispute. But the Kingdom has used its vast hydrocarbon resources, including a quarter of the world's proven oil reserves, as the engine driving a vast national development program that seeks to establish a modern diversified economy that eventually will phase out and supplant the oil industry as the main generator of revenue.

Saudi Arabia's transformation has its roots in the establishment of the modern Kingdom in 1932. At the time, the Kingdom had remained largely unchanged for centuries and was an agrarian society dependent on subsistence farming and commerce, lacking the infrastructure necessary for the economic growth and social development envisioned by its founder, King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud. There were few roads and the small number of seaports were used primarily for the pilgrimage to the two holy cities of Makkah and Madinah. More importantly, while the establishment of the Kingdom introduced peace, stability and other conditions conducive to development and growth, the country lacked the financial resources necessary to realize its goals.

The discovery of oil in commercial quantities in 1938 and its steady export soon after World War II provided the revenues needed to realize the Kingdom's plans for national development. The following two decades witnessed the building of roads, airports, seaports, schools, hospitals and other facilities and services.

Saudi Arabia's national development moved into high gear in 1970. Having already met the basic needs of society, the government now embarked on an ambitious endeavor: to build a modern economy capable of producing a wide range of consumer and industrial goods that so far had to be imported and which eventually would be exported to other countries.

The key to achieving this lofty goal was careful planning and meticulous implementation. Although development was ongoing in the 1950s and 1960s, the Kingdom introduced a series of five-year development plans in l970 that brought cohesion and a long-term outlook to economic growth and expansion. Like building blocks, each of these plans served as the foundation for the next level of growth and development, whereby investments in one sector were not merely aimed at realizing advances in that particular field but were part of a broader effort that would ultimately complement and facilitate progress in other fields to achieve national development.

The first three development plans (1970-1984) focused on establishing a modern infrastructure capable of servicing a thriving economy. Some 100,000 miles of modern roads, including highways, were built to connect the major urban and economic centers. Three international airports and 22 regional ones were built. Twenty-one modern seaports were established on the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. These facilities not only made travel possible from one part of the country to the other but, more importantly, allowed industrial and commercial activities to flourish.

To date, the government has built eight major universities, more than 24,000 schools and a large number of colleges and training institutions to develop the manpower needed by the growing economy.

A measure of the success of Saudi Arabia's development plans, is that the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) more than quadrupled between the inception of the First Development Plan in 1970 and the beginning of the 7th Development Plan in 2000 to 618 billion Saudi riyals (US $164.8 billion). Significantly, the non-oil sector accounted for 70 percent of the GDP, while the private sector's share amounted to 48 percent.

To meet the challenges of a new world economy brought about by the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the rapid global changes expected in the coming years, Saudi Arabia has unveiled a series of move to propel the national economy into the next stage of growth and expansion.

The formation of the Higher Economic Council (HEC) in September 1999 was intended to bring about greater qualitative and quantitative economic growth. By taking over responsibilities from the Council of Ministers and other governmental bodies, the HEC is solely responsible for the conduct of the government's economic policy. Since its formation, it has devised economic policy, coordinated the activities of government agencies whose work impacts the national economy and presented proposals on development planning.

The Supreme Council for Petroleum and Minerals (SCPM), formed in January 2000, has performed a similar function in its area of specialization: to oversee the operations of the Kingdom's oil industry. The formation of the council facilitates the process of formulating policy and decision-making with a view to further developing the petroleum and minerals industries.

With the economy firmly on the road to sustained growth and expansion and the private sector playing an increasingly important role, the Kingdom took another historic step designed to enable the country to better deal with the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century by establishing the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) in April 2000.

In April 2000 the Council of Ministers approved the formation of the Supreme Commission for Tourism (SCT) to expand tourist facilities and further promote travel by Saudi citizens as well as visitors from abroad. The commission has already launched studies of the various sites and began determining areas that require investment, including foreign companies.

To further facilitate foreign investments, the Kingdom introduced a new law in April 2000 that gives foreign investors the same benefits, incentives and guarantees offered to Saudi Arabian individuals and companies. It allows foreign investors the right to own property, either jointly with a Saudi partner or independently. It also allows investors to remit funds abroad, protects their property from confiscation and reduces by 15 percent the amount of taxes imposed on foreign companies that have an annual profit of more than 100,000 riyals (about US$ 26,700).

With a mature economy that is rapidly diversifying in new directions, a vast pool of highly educated and trained manpower, a stable socio-economic climate conducive to foreign investment, and a track record of achieving, and in many cases surpassing, the ambitious goals of its development plans, the Kingdom is well positioned to bring about the continued expansion of industry, petroleum and minerals, agriculture, commerce and banking, and other segments of its economy.

B. 7th Five-Year Plan comes as a timely gift to people

The new 7th Five-Year Plan (2000-2005), with its renewed emphasis on the role of the private sector and a fresh drive for Saudization, holds out a big promise for the Saudi citizens in the days to come. Added to this is the excitement among the public resulting from the liberalization of foreign investment regulations and the hope of an early entry into the WTO.

The Ministry of Planning has issued the 7th Development Plan which confirms the continuity of the process of planning for comprehensive development.

Objectives of the National Economic Growth: The 7th Plan period will witness a moderate economic growth within the context of which efforts will be exerted to consolidate the financial situation, support the competitiveness of the Saudi economy, boost structural changes aimed at the diversification of the production base, income sources and government revenues, enhance Saudization and privatization programs and increase the national and foreign private investments.

The 7th Seventh Plan's objectives at macroeconomic level encompass the following:

- To achieve an average annual GDP growth of 3.16 percent at constant prices of 1414-15 (1994) through placing emphasis on the private sector which is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 5.04 percent.
- To achieve an average non-oil GDP growth rate of 4.01 percent, thereby increasing the share of non-oil sectors in GDP from 68.4 percent in the base year 1419-20 (1999) to 71.6 percent by the end of the plan. This affirms a further step toward diversification of' the national economy.
- To achieve an average annual growth rate of 3.44 percent, in the service sectors. Furthermore, the production sectors are expected to witness an average annual growth rates of 3.05 percent for agriculture, 8.34 percent for non-oil mining sectors, 5.14 percent for industrial sectors, 4.62 percent for electricity, gas and water sector, and 6.17 percent for construction sector. The petrochemical industries and other manufacturing will grow at average annual rates of 8.29 percent and 7.16 percent, respectively.
- To achieve a real annual growth rate of 6.85 percent for investment during the plan period, thereby leading to the increase of investment share in GDP from 22.7 percent in the base year 1419-20 (1999) to 25.4 percent by the end of the plan 1424-25 (2005).
- Total private sector investments during the plan period are estimated at about SR478.5 billion, or about 71.2 percent of total investments over the s,ame period.
- To improve the position of the current account in the balance of payments and reverse it from a deficit of -3 percent of GDP in the base year 1419-20 (1999) to a surplus of about 6.9 percent by the end of the Plan 1424-25 (2005).
- To reduce the stage budget deficit as a percentage of GDP from about -10.8 percent in the base year 1419-20 (1999) to almost zero by the end of the plan 1424-25 (2005) through increasing government revenues, particularly non-oil revenues, as well as rationalizing government expenditures.
- To increase the share of national manpower in total employment from 44.2 percent in 1419-20 (1999) to 53.2 percent in 1424-25 (2005) by providing 817,300 job opportunities for the new entrants to the labor market, of which 488,600 jobs through replacement of non-Saudis by Saudis.

Major economic policies: The 7th Development Plan encompasses a harmonious set of economic policies emanating from the integrated instruments of both directive and indicative planning, which are seen as the best available alternatives for realizing the plan"s objectives and strategic bases. These policies are:

- Expand the application of privatization modalities that" Hate proved to be successful and select adequate ateas and methods in line with the objectives, measures and considerations set forth in,the" Council of Ministers decree #60 dated 1/4/1418.
- The Development Funds shall continue to provide loans to individuals and companies provided that the total value of loans be within the limits of repayment (self-financing policy).
- Maintaining the stability of the purchasing power of the Saudi Riyal as well as the stability of exchange rates in domestic and international markets.
- Providing local liquidity in conformity" with the actual requirements of economic activity within a framework free of inflationary pressures.
- Improving the efficiency of the banking system and consolidating the function of the Credit Risk Center.
- Developing new savings channels to mobilize small savings, as well as lucrative investment channels to attract national capital invested abroad.
- Developing financial markets and enhancing their efficiency.
- Continue to develop the institutional framework of foreign trade and improve the performance efficiency of related public and private institutions.
- Enhancing incentives and technical assistance which contribute in improving the private sectors" competitiveness in the international markets.
- Consolidating the competitiveness of national products in domestic markets against similar imported products.
- Reducing the volume of current external transfers through intensified Saudiization efforts as well as availing attractive investment channels to absorb savings of foreign labor in productive investment within the Kingdom.
- Encouraging the flow of private investments (national and foreign) to productive projects which contribute in the development of non-oil exports.

Planned major achievements in the development of labor force:

The 7th Seventh Plan expects the provision of 328,600 new job opportunities to meet -development needs of labor force, thereby increasing total employment from 7.17 million workers in the base year 1419-20 (1999) to 7.5 million by the end of the Plan 1424-25 (2005). Employment in the non-oil private sector is expected to increase from 6.16 million in the base year 1419-20 (1999) to 6.47 million by the end of the Plan 1424-25 (2005). Thus, the total number of job opportunities available in the private sector will be 311,Q00, or about 94 6 percent of total job opportunities available during the plan period.

Major achievements planned in social development sector:

- Increasing the percentage of pregnant mothers who are provided with health care by health professionals to not less than 95 percent.
- Maintaining high rates of immunization of children against infections and diseases at not less than 95 percent.
- Opening and operating 250 primary health care centers.
- Adding 4,630 beds in hospitals which have already been completed and furnished and in others expected to be completed and furnished during the plan period.
- Starting to construct 44 new hospitals with capacity of 50 beds per hospital.
- Starting to construct 15 new hospitals with capacities of 100-500 beds as well as two rehabilitation centers for treatment of chronic diseases with a capacity of 300 beds per center.
- Establishing 500 primary health care centers.
- Start the establishment of 10 replacement hospitals with capacity of 50-500 beds.

Plan period. Total number of general education graduates. (female), will increase from 1.66 million in the 6th.Plan to 2.30 million in the" 7th plan Therefore, total graduates (male and female) will increase from 3.16 million to 4.53 million.

- Total number of male students in the higher-education institutions will increase from about 122,000 in 1419-20 to about 200,000 in the last year of the 7eh Plan; total number of female students will increase from about 141,000 to about 280,000 during the period. Therefore, total number of male and female students of higher education will increase from about 263,000 in 1419-20 to about 480,000 in the last year of the 7th Plan
- Total number of students in technical education system will increase from about 33,000 in 1419-20 to about 55,000 in the last year of the 7eh Plan.
- Total enrollment in vocational training centers will increase from about 12,000 trainees in 1419-20 to about 17,000 in the last year of the 7eh Plan.
- Total number of male graduates of higher education system will increase from about 69,000 in the 6eh Plan to about 127,000 in the 7eh Plan, and the number of female graduates from 85,000 to 146,000 during the same period. Therefore, total number of male and female graduates of the higher education system will increase from 154,000 to 273,000.
- Opening of 60 emergency centers Establishing 80 emergency centers.
- Increasing the rate of broadcasting coverage from 95 percent to 97 percent of the beneficiaries by the end of the plan.
- Increasing the rate of television coverage by Channel 2 from 75 percent to 85 percent of the population by the end of the plan.
- Increasing the rate of television coverage by Channel 1 from 90 percent to 95 percent of the population by the end of the plan.
- Increasing the number of the youth participating in sports, cultural and social program to about 600,000 youths.

Major planned achievements in the human resources sector:

Total number of male students in the general education system will increase from about 2.17 milk in 1419-20 to about 2.29 million in the last year of the plan. The total number of female students will increase from about 2.22 million to about 2.23 million during the same period. Therefore, total number of male and female students will increase from 4.4 million in 1419-20 to 4.52 million in the last year of the 7th Plan.

Total number of general education graduates (male) with increase from 1.50 million during the 6th Plan period to 2.23 million during the 7th

- Total number of technical education graduates will increase from about 27,000 during the 6th Plan period to about 50,000 during the 7th Plan.
- Total number of graduates of the vocational training centers will increase from about 28,000 during the 6~ Plan period to about 46,000 during the 7th Plan period.

C. Saudi Economic Performance

1. Actual GDP up by 2.2 percent for 2001

A statement by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy said gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to reach SR 615 billion in 2001, up by 2.2 percent from last year. This was achieved despite the decline in the oil sector GDP, especially in the fourth quarter of 2001. The figure was originally projected to have reached SR 668 billion, but dropped as a result of the decline in oil prices.

Private sector GDP grew by 5.9 percent. Other growth sectors included the non-oil sector which grew by 9.3 percent; the communications and transport sector, by 9.1 percent; the electricity, gas and water sector, by 4.5 percent; and construction by 3.3 percent.

Inflation fell by 0.8 percent in 2001. Non-oil exports grew by 4.3 percent to reach SR 25.9 billion.

Based on preliminary date from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, the balance of payments account is estimated to record a surplus of SR 31.3 billion in 2001.

2. Non-oil exports surge in 2001

A feature of Saudi foreign trade in 2001 was a sharp increase in non-oil exports which had remained depressed for the last few years.

The total value of Saudi non-oil exports rose by 24 percent to SR 30.7 billion in 2001, as compared to the previous year. This was the result of an increase of 62 percent in exports of plastics, 11 percent in petrochemicals and 34 percent in other products as a whole.

3. Imports up by 3 percent

Yet another feature of the Saudi foreign trade in 2001 was an increase of 3 percent in its merchandize imports to SR 113.9 billion, as compared to the previous year. Saudi imports from Japan, China, and Australia forged ahead, while those from US, Italy, and Switzerland declined. The US still remains the top ranker, with Japan keeping up its second position.

China, which had ranked seventh in Saudi imports in 2000, improved its ranking to the 5th place. Chinal supplies a wide range of consumer goods and household appliances. The largest segment of its supplies are garments of various types. The other major items are footwear, watches, toys, tires, TVs, suitcases, and fans (Chinese figures do not include those of Hong Kong).

D. Agriculture: Making the Desert Come Alive

For a country that lacks permanent rivers and receives only scant rainfall to aspire to become a major agricultural producer is far-fetched. Yet Saudi Arabia has made that dream a reality, producing a wide range of agricultural products from barley to watermelons; achieving self-sufficiency in many areas, such as wheat, dairy products and fruits; and exporting to other countries a variety of farm products, from strawberries to flowers.

The key to agriculture throughout the world historically has been the availability, or the absence, of water. Most of the Kingdom is covered by deserts and arid land, yet there are fertile areas, such as the Asir in the southwest, that receives rainfall, as well as oases, such as Al-Qatif and Al-Hasa, that have for centuries produced dates and limited quantities of cereals and vegetables.

With the introduction of the 1st Five-Year Development Plan in 1970, Saudi Arabia undertook to expand agricultural production in the traditionally fertile areas as well as to extend it to other regions that have fertile soil but lack of sufficient water. As it has done in other areas of economic endeavor, Saudi Arabia applied in the subsequent three decades its vast resources to the agricultural sector, literally making the deserts come alive.

To provide the water needed for the growing agricultural sector, the Kingdom took steps to collect and conserve vast quantities of water from the frequent flash floods that occur in certain parts of the country, water that had previously disappeared into the sands. To collect the run-off, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water has built more than 200 dams placed strategically in wadis (dry riverbeds). These dams have a total reservoir capacity of more than 16 billion cubic feet of water. It has also established a vast network of irrigation canals to distribute water from these reservoirs to nearby farms.

Innovatively, Saudi Arabia also looked to the sea as a source of water not only for agriculture, but also for industry and urban use. The Saline Water Conservation Corporation (SWCC) operates 30 destination stations along the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, which with plants operated by other government agencies produce 1.09 billion cubic meters desalinated water annually. Carried by an extensive network of pipelines to urban, industrial and agricultural centers, these plants provide more than 70 percent of the water used in cities, as well as a sizeable portion of the needs of industry and agriculture.

Additionally, water from underground reservoirs, accessed via deep wells, has been used to meet agricultural needs. Another source of water is treated urban wastewater, which is used exclusively for irrigating agricultural crops.

At the same time, the Kingdom introduced a series of steps to encourage greater private sector participation in agriculture. Under the land distribution and reclamation program, farmers were given plots of arable land. The government also provided them with long-term, interest-free loans, support services, and free seeds and fertilizers.

It also set up roads linking major agricultural areas with urban centers to facilitate the transport of goods, and built silos to store grain produced at the new farms.

The result has been a phenomenal growth in agricultural production in the past three decades, with the value of output increasing more than 30-fold to more than US $15 billion annually.

Today, the Kingdom is a major producer of agricultural goods, and whereby previously output was limited to a few crops, the sector now enjoys great diversity. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water reports that the Kingdom is producing nearly nine million tons of cereals, fruits, vegetables and fodder every year on 11 million acres of land under cultivation. Saudi farmers produce some 2.2 million tons of wheat and barley, 2.7 million tons of fruits and nearly three million tons of alfalfa and other types of fodder for the livestock industry.

Significantly, the agricultural sector has been making headway in the production of fruits and vegetables that are in great demand in Saudi Arabia and which were almost exclusively imported in the past. For example, production of fruits almost doubled between 1994 and 1998, and most of the growth was for fruits other than dates, in which Saudi Arabia has traditionally been self-sufficient. Output of citrus products has risen from 59,000 tons in 1994 to more than 110,000 tons. Production of grapes has grown from 124,000 tons in 1994 to some 150,000.

Output of vegetables now stands at some 2.7 million tons. As a result, locally produced vegetables satisfy 84 percent of domestic consumption, whereas most of the vegetables consumed in the Kingdom were imported a decade ago. Also, Saudi farmers are now exporting potatoes, carrots, tomatoes and pumpkins, with 60,000 tons shipped neighboring countries every year.

Intensive dairy, meat, poultry, and egg farming by small farmers and large-scale agro-industrial operations have satisfied local demand. These ventures produce 500,000 tons of poultry meat, 2.5 billion eggs, over 800,000 tons of dairy products, 160,000 tons of red meat, and 60,000 tons of fish every year.

In addition to supplying fresh farm products, the agricultural sector also features modern processing and packaging plants that ensure a wide range of foodstuffs with extended shelf-life.

Flying over Saudi Arabia today, one is amazed by the appearance of vast expenses of green in the desert. These agricultural tracts satisfy the nation's needs and produce exports of close to half-billion dollars worth of products to countries near and far every year.

E. $25 Billion Gas Development Projects, A Dream Come True

Rarely has any country received in world economic history as big a bonanza as what Saudi Arabia accomplished last June. The $25 billion joint venture proposal for a series of gas development projects is a dream come true.

The Saudi industry and trade, faced with a prolonged slowdown in economic activity, could not have asked for more. New rays of hope in the horizon not only for businessmen but also for people in general. The low-key 7th Five-Year Plan (2000-2005) has indeed changed the gear to a superfast track.

The Supreme Council for Petroleum and Minerals has given the green signal to eight international oil companies to launch mammoth gas development projects. Saudi Aramco is expected to hold equity in the companies. The following are the new projects and the foreign companies participating in them:

ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, BP and Philips get stakes in the biggest of three gas projects in offer, the $15 billion South Ghawar development in Eastern Province, known as Core Venture One.

Exxon secured the leading role in Core Venture Two, on the Red Sea and in the northwest, with Enron and Occidental also winning shares.

Shell, TotalFinalElf and Conoco won stakes in Core Venture Three, for development of the Shaybah gas field and south east of the Empty Quarter.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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Examining our buried secrets

THERE are those who claim that chronicles written by friars and other historical accounts by travelling Europeans tell, not the story of the ancient Filipino, but the story of Spain in the Philippines, Dr. William Henry Scott, noted anthropologist, begged to differ with that assessment stating that there are historical gold nuggets to be mined in dictionaries compiled by those assiduous scholarly religious that reveal much about life in these islands hundreds of years ago.

Aside from the kind of research that deals with manuscripts, there is another type of scientific arcane enterprise that even the prissiest nitpicker would not dare argue with simply because the subject is too esoteric for the majority. "Truth shall spring out of the earth," the Psalmist wrote some 3000 years ago and for the past half century archaeologists have been digging to find it. From the fertile Cagayan Valley (where elephant bones were first found in the '30s) to the caves of Palawan, the land has been slowly yielding its secrets, illuminating the ancient inhabitants of the Philippines who were our ancestors.

Reconstructing history from stone tools made of chert (also known as "flint", a crypto-crystalline form of Quartz) and other rocks is neither easy nor exact, but some recent archaeological excavations in the town of General Tinio in Nueva Ecija shed light on our Palaeolithic past, offering valuable insights into the people who once lived there. (The term Palaeolithic derives from "*palaeo*" which is Latin and means "old" and the Greek word "*lithos*" meaning "stone"). The serendipitous discovery came about through Nicanor Aves III, a history teacher who happened to have recognized that some stones in a tilled field owned by his grandfather were actually tools. It turned out to be a first-time discovery of Stone Age habitation in that part of the country, dating back to approximately 500,000 BP making the site older than the previous ground-breaking find in Palawan's Tabon Caves. The Tabon Caves were discovered in the '60s by researchers from the National Museum under Dr. Robert Fox and are still being explored by the National Museum with Dr. Eusebio Dizon and staff hampered by the usual lack of funds. While both sites are Palaeolithic, human remains found in Palawan make it unparalleled but the discovery of a hand axe and other ancient artifacts generally associated with *Homo erectus* in General Tinio is unique in the Philippines. Philippine archaeology has barely scratched the surface, though.

The find in General Tinio has been greatly aided by the establishment of a laboratory for artifact analysis through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) grant of P1 million – a first in Southeast Asia. Hidden in a quiet corner of UP Diliman is an unprepossessing 25-sq. m. room with a title over the entrance that reads, "Lithic Studies Laboratory". Within you find a complete microscopy system for the analysis of prehistoric artifacts connected to a computer work station, surveying instruments, excavation equipment and satellite navigation system GPS, not to mention a digital photo and video studio. The man responsible is a 41-year-old German archaeologist specializing in Stone Age tool analysis who once a certified engineer but at the age of 25 returned to the University of Tubingen to take up Archaeology. Years later, in 1996, Dr. Alfred Pawlik was teaching in Bangkok at the Silpakorn University and came to the Philippines for a study visit with his Thai colleague. Invited by Dizon, head of UP's Archaeological Studies Program, he returned in 1997 to teach Stone Age Technology for a semester, a subject dealing with early prehistory (2 million B.P. to 5000 B.P.). But it was not until 1999 that he joined the faculty through the same German Academic Exchange Program and set up the laboratory inaugurated just this past February with German Ambassador Herbert Jess and UP president Francisco Nemenzo as special guests.

Pawlik states that with the donated equipment students will learn to make a careful and complete analysis of stone tools as well as reconstruct the technique used to make the tools.

The site at General Tinio has already been identified as a habitation and quarry site.

PLDT SPONSORS PARENTING CONVENTION

PLDT will sponsor the first Philippine Parenting Convention in October, which includes an exhibit of household products and services and workshops discussing significant topics and issues related to parenthood and child-rearing. Shown is PLDT media and corpcomm vice president Butch Jimenez (fourth from left) shaking hands with Businessworks' president Anthony Pangilinan. Also shown are (from left) PLDT marketing services' Raul Alvarez and Ana May Jovellanos, PLDT SVP Claro Carmelo Ramirez, and Businessworks representative Ardy Abello.

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ARIEL

WHIRLPOOL RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH ARIEL

Whirlpool, one of the world's largest manufacturers of home appliances, has endorsed Ariel for the second year as the best detergent for its washing machines. Whirlpool's choice of Ariel is due to its superior cleaning system and stain removal that delivers the best possible cleaning end-result. Under the partnership, an Ariel laundry gift pack comes free with every purchase of a Whirlpool washing machine. Signing the agreement are Aisa Yap, marketing appliances manager of Procter & Gamble, makers of Ariel, and Chris Sioco, Whirlpool's sales and marketing manager.

How 'bout my pla

KIKKOMAN LIVENS UP GREENBELT

There was no shortage of good food at the new Grenbelt mall as chef Fernando Aracama, host of RPN 9's 'How 'bout my place?' and Lydia Castillo, writer and culinary innovator, shared new and exciting ways of using Kikkoman Teriyaki Marinade and Sauce to liven up meals. Kikkoman Teriyaki Marinade is a unique blend of selected spices, wine, sugar, seasonings, and most importantly, Kikkoman soy sauce, that brings out the savory flavor of grilled, broiled or roasted meat, poultry and seafood. Kikkoman Teriyaki Marinade and Sauce was featured on the show Aug. 3, 17 and 31.

'READ TO LEAD' ENDORSERS

Morning show host and National Youth Commissioner Bam Aquino, writer Lexi Revilla-Schulze and basketball player Vince Hizon signed on as endorsers for the Read to Lead reading advocacy campaign of Visine eye drops. Aquino and Schulze will also be the hosts of the 'Read to Lead Readshow,' a monthly event that kicked off Sept. 15 at Robinsons Galleria, Fountain Area. Shown is Schulze and Aquino (second and third from left, respectively) signing their memorandum of agreement with Kimmy Coseteng, corporate affairs manager (left) and Kristen Mariano, Visine product manager (right), both from Pfizer.

BITS Clips

Direct Link's 'Hulugan'

"HULUGAN" car insurance, another "first" of Direct Link, a UCPB Group company, should be a boon to car owners, especially during these trying times. Launched recently, news of the "Hulugan" advantage has been received by car owners with much enthusiasm. The payment scheme for car insurance premium providing up to six months to pay is further enhanced with full protection assurance upon the car owner's payment of the first monthly installment. For inquiries, call Direct Link at 887-2588.

Lean manufacturing

THE SOCIETY of Manufacturing Engineers Manila chapter 165, led by engineer Michael C. Dy, chapter chair, announces the seminar on Lean Manufacturing on Sept. 25 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Invited to speak is engineer Ma. Mildred Hayag, production system specialist of Ford Motor Co. Philippines. Topics to be discussed are the definition and history of Lean Manufacturing, elements of Lean philosophy, waste elimination, techniques of Lean Manufacturing, and an HHH Workshop. Interested parties may register with Lily Rose A. Atienza at telefax 687-4827, 0919-6279418, or e-mail lilyrose_atienza@hotmail.com.

Baked goodies, to go

THE SAN Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center starts early to give you ideas on holiday home made goodies you can do with love and care. This demo class will feature young pastry chef Dennis Hipolito, an associate in baking and pastry arts graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, who worked in the famous Ritz Carlton Hotel in Chicago. He will share the finer points and techniques in baking. Creative yet practical cakes and pastries will be demonstrated using quality ingredients such as Magnolia Gold Butter and Magnolia Cream Cheese. He will also show ways to package these Christmas goodies. The baking class with real class starts at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 28, Saturday, at the Ballroom 2 of the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City. Register by calling 671-9876 local 402 to 405 during office hours. Registration is free. Those who register will have to bring an empty wrapper each of Magnolia Gold Butter and Magnolia Cream Cheese in exchange for an entrance ticket the day of the demo class.

DOH-Nat'l TB program

A CALL to action from the City Health Officer of Balanga, Bataan, Dr. Mart Banzon of the National Tuberculosis Program of the Department of Health counts on all doctors, public and private, to unite in the fight against tuberculosis. Help save lives. Be one in support of the National Tuberculosis Program of the Department of Health.

New appointments

CURRENCY Asia Marketing Corp., a fully authorized introducing broker in the Philippines for Capital Market Service LLC, New York-based primary market maker, recently announced two key executive positions for its marketing, research and educational services.

Appointed were Constantino "Ting" Jayme as compliance manager and Ralph Chua as marketing manager.

Jayme is taking his experience and expertise to Currency Asia after 25 years of work and trade in the US Futures Markets and inter-bank forex markets and became associated with well-known US Futures Commodities Merchants clearing brokers.

He plans to strengthen the company's research section, educational services and simulated trading to make the company more user-friendly in the Internet.

While in marketing, Chua will implement plans that will enable the company to introduce a Partnership Account Program to a selected few qualified clients. The program is perfect for people who have cash flows who want to maximize their profit (high-yield interest) and get the best returns.

In announcing the appointments, Currency Asia cited Jayme and Chua's personal contributions to the value of dedicated services, expertise and performance that make a real difference for the clients.

BKI PRESIDENT VISITS RP RESTAURANTS

Burger King International (BKI) president Andre Lacroix (fifth from right) and international director for financial planning and analysis Rudiger Hartmann (fifth from left) pose with managers and supervisors in one of the fastfood chain's stores in Metro Manila. Lacroix is visiting Burger King restaurants around the country to check on local operations and provide valuable insights about the industry. Burger King, the No. 2 fastfood chain in the world, has become recognized for great flame-grilled taste, 100-percent pure beef burgers, and is home to the hugely popular Whopper sandwich. The visit coincides with the many activities lined up for the anniversary of Burger King in the Philippines this year. Joining Lacroix during the restaurant tour are Burger King country franchise business manager for Philippines and Thailand Bingo Soriano (third from left), Ayala Corp. associate director Marissa Santos (fourth from left). Burger King operations trainer for Philippines Jane Canuto (fourth from right) and PhilKing Restaurants Inc. president Raul Nazareno (background, second from right).

GUEST OF HONOR

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye (seated, 2nd from left) was the guest of WG&A Superferry, the country's largest shipping company, during the Philets interview session aboard SuperFerry 14 at Pier 4. Bunye was interviewed by Philets members for a profile story for the Philets Forum magazine, a publication of the Philets Foundation. The foundation is an association of alumni of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas which helps individuals, communities, whole barangays through scholarships, setting up community libraries, seminars and financial assistance during emergencies, from funds donated by its members. Also shown are Philets officers and members (seated, from left) Malaya founder Joe Burgos, former Representative Bert Lumawig, and Henrietta Reverente. Standing, from left, are Lalie Garcia, Norma Quinit, Bunye's special assistant Lolit Acosta, and Charlie Agatep of Agatep Associates.

MOVEMENTS

New HSBC CEO

MANNING

WARNER Manning will be appointed chief executive officer of the local branch of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. by November 2002.

Manning will also assume the position of chairman of HSBC Savings Bank (Phils.) Inc.

Paul Lawrence, the current CEO, will take up the position of CEO of Singapore in January 2003.

Manning, who is currently CEO of Brunei, has been with HSBC for over 20 years, holding various positions in finance, IT, planning, corporate banking and personal financial services.

Manning started his career as an accountant after graduating with an honors degree in Business Management in 1976. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

SGV has new partners

SGV & Co. became the sole Philippine member practice of Ernst & Young Global last Sept. 1. This was announced in the recent Ernst & Young Global Executive Board (GEB) meeting in London. SGV chair and managing partner Cesar V. Purisima had been invited to be a member of Ernst & Young GEB. Ernst & Young is the second largest professional services firm in the world.

SGV also announced the admission of four new partners and the designation of five new principals. Admitted to the partnership are Victor F. Carreon, Marydith C. Miguel, Noel P. Rabaja and Aileen L. Saringan. The new principals are Marc B. Ablan, Joaquin L. Arambulo, John M. Ryan, Antonette C. Tionko and Wilfredo U. Villanueva.

Carreon, a former audit partner in SGV Manila and Korea, has earned recognition for his extensive expertise in financial systems, controls and audit. He joins the firm's risk consulting group.

Miguel possesses 17 years of experience in audit and business advisory services. A CPA, she is a graduate of the University of the East. She obtained her master's degree in management from the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

Rabaja is a cum laude accountancy graduate of University of the Philippines, and a top placer in the CPA licensure examinations. He is a partner in the firm's tax compliance group.

Saringan recently returned from London where she gained experience in technology, media and communications. She graduated from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, magna cum laude, and obtained master's degree in management from the AIM.

Ablan specializes in privatization, infrastructure, energy and utilities. He is a business management graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University with an MBA from the University of Dallas.

Arambulo is an expert in enterprise application practice and business and technology systems and solutions. A business economics graduate of the University of the Philippines, he holds a master's degree, major in information and communication systems, from the Fordham University Graduate School of Business.

Ryan is a recognized authority in corporate restructuring and corporate recovery services. An MBA graduate of the Banff School of Management, he is a chartered accountant of Canada and was formerly managing partner of the Edmonton Office of Coopers & Lybrand.

Tionko specializes in tax services for the banking and financial services industry, as well as the upstream oil and gas and power industry. She earned her bachelor of science and bachelor of laws degrees from the Ateneo de Manila University.

Villanueva handles major tax advocacy issues such as transfer pricing. He graduated cum laude from University of the East with a bachelor of laws degree. He attended the Ateneo de Manila University for his undergraduate degree in philosophy.

EPCIB has new director

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, has appointed Francisco B. Vista Jr. as director of corporate communications to strengthen communication capabilities for its new program of expansion and strengthening under the management of president and CEO Rene J. Buenaventura.

Vista will play a key role in effectively communicating to the bank's many stakeholders the new programs and services of EPCIB. These programs are being undertaken at a time when the bank is entering a renewed phase of growth in its business.

The bank expects demand for consumer banking services to expand rapidly when the economy takes off and it wants to consolidate its leadership in the field by ensuring its capability to handle a vastly larger number of transactions than it does now.

As director of corporate communications, Vista will be in charge of both the external and internal communications of the bank, including the vital field of media relations.

VISTA

Prior to the new appointment, Vista was head of marketing services at EPCIB since 1999, the same function he held at the premerger PCI Bank for three years. Previous to that, he had set up and managed PCI Bank's merchandising and PR/publicity unit.

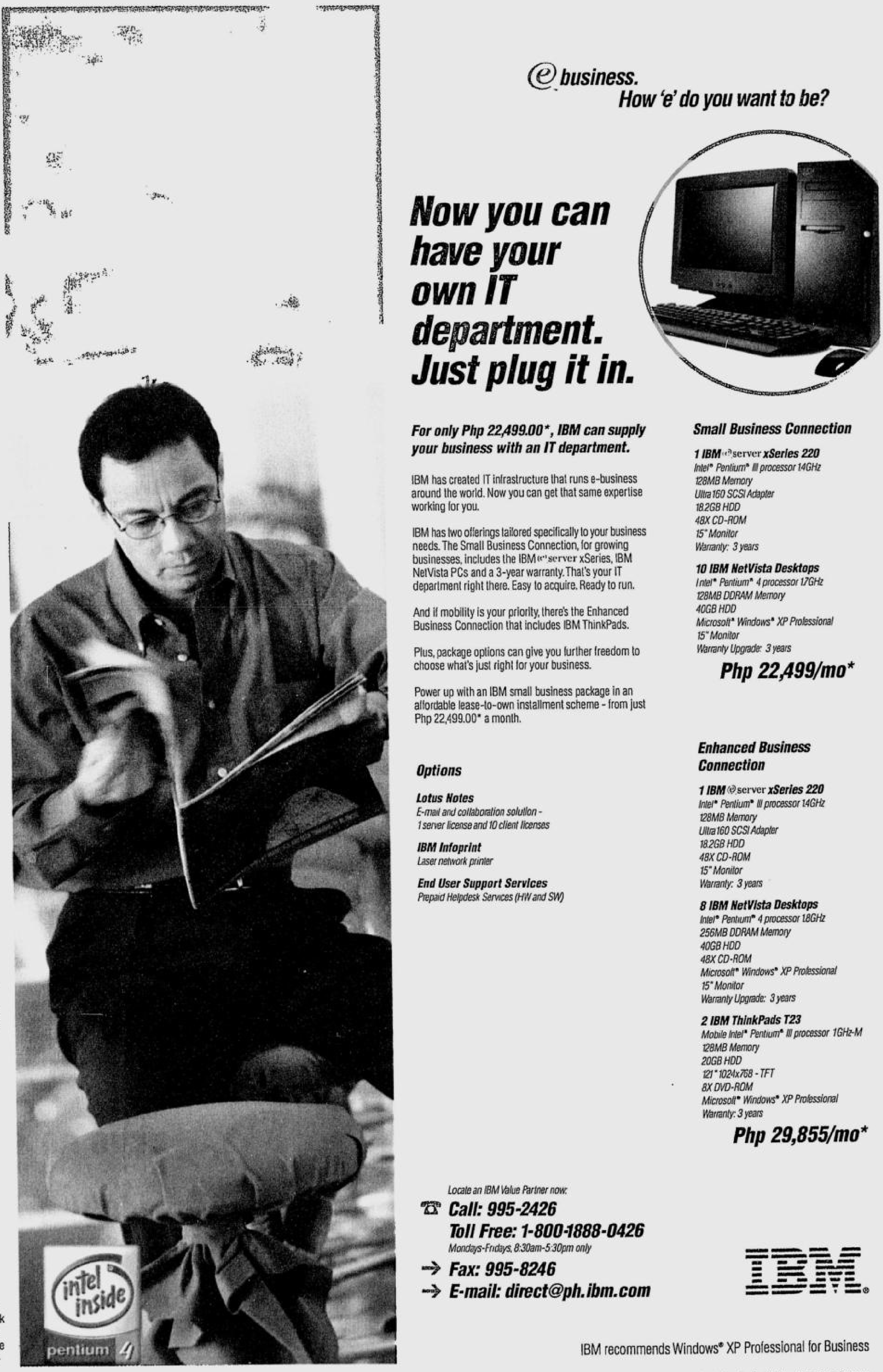
He previously organized and managed corporate communications units for BA Savings Bank and Bank of Philippine Islands, where he had his start in banking in 1986. He holds an MBA degree from Ateneo de Manila University and a Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree from De La Salle University.

EPCIB sees higher growth in revenue and earnings starting this year, having demonstrated resilient loan growth, a sustained recovery in assets and deposits and a vastly better NPL profile at the end of the first semester. The first six-month profit of P338 million, a near 15-fold rise over year-ago levels, was much stronger than expected and puts the bank on course to exceed the full-year target of P500 million.

RP's largest bank celebrates 40 years

METROBANK Card Corp.'s Ric Verde, MasterCard's Poch Villareal, and Cindy Valenzuela

METROBANK SEVP Henry Sun, NLRC Commissioner Alberto R. Quimpo, Metrobank president Antonio S. Abacan, CFO Alfredo Javellana, and executive director James Go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RP's largest bank celebrates 40 years

IT was another evening of VIPs and overflowing food at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

The party was attended by guests from government, media, business, the banking industry, the academe and the diplomatic community. *(More photos on Page C7.)*

METROBANK vice chair Placido L. Mapa Jr., former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel C. Singson and Metrobank chair George Ty.

MARY V. Ty welcomes Oishi taipan Carlos Chan

Managing a crisis: How pros do it

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

THE SEPT. 11 terrorist attacks of the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York last year was an extreme example of a situation that required the skills of an extraordinary crisis manager.

Then New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani rose to meet the demands of the occasion. Before the attacks, many of his constituents had disdained him.

He took charge immediately, appeared on the site of Ground Zero, and was the first American official to speak to media. He projected a tough, determined and decisive image, earning for him the sobriquet "The Winston Churchill of New York."

At the same time, he never lost his humanity when he spoke the heartbreaking words: "The final count (of bodies) will be more than we can bear."

For maintaining his composure and facing the problem head-on, New Yorkers wanted him to stay on as mayor, signing petitions to scrap term limits; he came a possible presidential contender if President George W. Bush failed in his anti-terrorist war; Queen Elizabeth II knighted him; and the public was fulsome in its praise ("He walks like a god," "He can run for anything and win").

These are among the observations of Winston A. Marbella, president of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) and head of Marbella International Business Consultancy (MIBC). He will conduct a whole-day seminar on crisis management on Sept. 25 at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

MARBELLA

The seminar is a prelude to the 10th National Public Relations Congress which has for its theme "Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development" to be held on Sept. 26-27 at the same venue. (For info, call 636-3242, 636-3243 or e-mail prmanila@info.com.ph)

Marbella's firm specializes in strategic planning, corporate communications, advocacy and crisis management, research, investment analysis, mergers and acquisitions, and management training.

Before he set up MIBC, he was COO of Goldilocks Bake Shop Inc.

In a local example of a crisis, he cited the deadly earthquake of July 16, 1990 when the Hyatt Terraces Hotel in Baguio City collapsed, killing 98 people. The quake happened at 4:30 p.m. By 6 p.m., a crisis team was formed and had a list of survivors and those trapped in the building. By 11 p.m., senior executives met to organize rescue operations, a food brigade and lodging for the rescue team.

Marbella quoted Therese Necio-Ortega, Hyatt PR manager, who said in the aftermath of the quake, "Having practiced and prepared, it came naturally for me to take one logical step after another. You have to keep your head. Be prepared, communicate and anticipate."

Another crisis in recent memory was the explosion of the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk in the Barents Sea on Aug. 12, 2000 wherein 118 crewmen died. Marbella recalled that 23 were still alive two hours after the explosion. Still it took the Russian Navy 16 hours to locate the sub, and Russian officials dilly-dallied, letting four days go by before asking for international help.

These officials also refused to give information at first, offering "theories" with no factual basis. An insensitive Russian President continued his summer vacation for almost a week before meeting and comforting the victims' families. The result was expected: an angry Russian public.

Marbella observed that crises such as the ones mentioned have common characteristics. These are:

- A breakdown of transportation and communications system;
- Damage to property;
- Physical injuries and loss of human lives;
- People from different countries are involved;
- International politics and economics are affected; and
- These media events take place in real time.

There are key lessons in preparing for a crisis. The PRSP president, who is on his third term, said, "You have no time to think when a crisis erupts. Having a crisis plan that has been rehearsed and regularly updated prevents panic and gives logic to most chaotic situations. Having this plan can also reduce insurance premiums."

He added: "Dealing with media is a large part of handling a crisis. This is the time when you need to communicate. The reservoir of corporate goodwill offers good payback when a crisis erupts. Crises are opportunities for companies to demonstrate excellence."

Marbella said the realities of life in the 21st century are inescapable, and one of these is: "Media will show up. News media will continue to operate 24 hours a day, every day of the year with no days off! Globalization means that people will live and work anywhere in the world. Companies will operate all over the world. Countries will be more interdependent."

Paraphrasing Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin, he concluded, "Everyone will be connected in some way."

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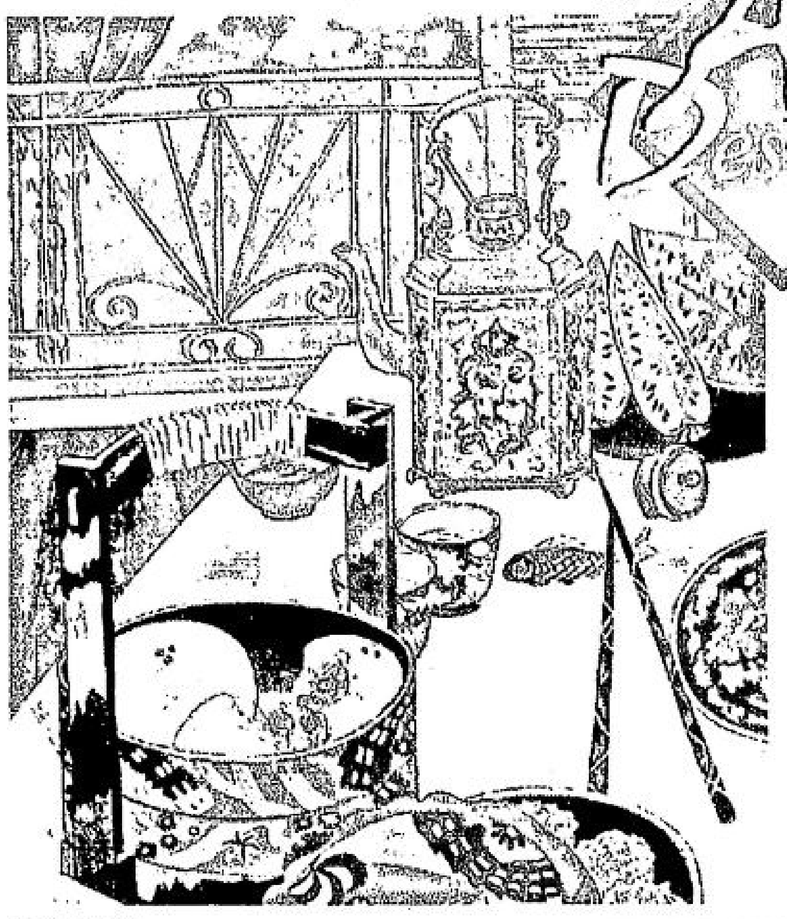
"MACAU"

Phyllis Zaballero's airy clutter and rich riot of colors

By Constantino C. Tejero

SHE left for the United States at six, then in later years removed to Geneva, Paris, Barcelona. When she returned to the country in her late adolescence, she took up economics at the University of the Philippines, but did not enter art school until she was in her late 30s.

She learned the craft at UP, mentored by Roberto Chabet, Napoleon Abueva, José Joya. Later she took up stained-glass technique in France and lithography in New York. That's why her art comes as Western-inflected.

"My exposure to art is really Western," says Phyllis Zaballero. "I guess my sentiments came out there. I used to worry because my sensibility was very Western, but I stopped worrying when it started to hamper my creativity. Now I don't care if there are no shanties in my work."

She admires the Dutch still-life artists, the American Abstract Expressionists Richard Diebenkorn, Helen Frankenthaler and Pollock, of course, and Bonnard, Degas. Of local artists, she admires most Ang Kiukok and Manansala.

Though she chooses subjects and techniques associated with Western art, her work can still be distinguished for its Orientalism, in color, tone and line, particularly in the thin washes on unprimed canvas, evocative of Japanese scroll painting.

PHYLLIS/ p.D2

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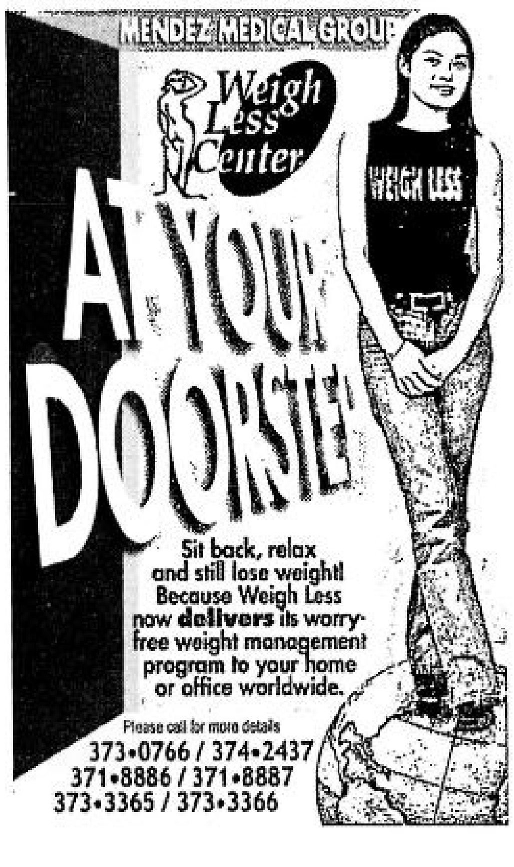
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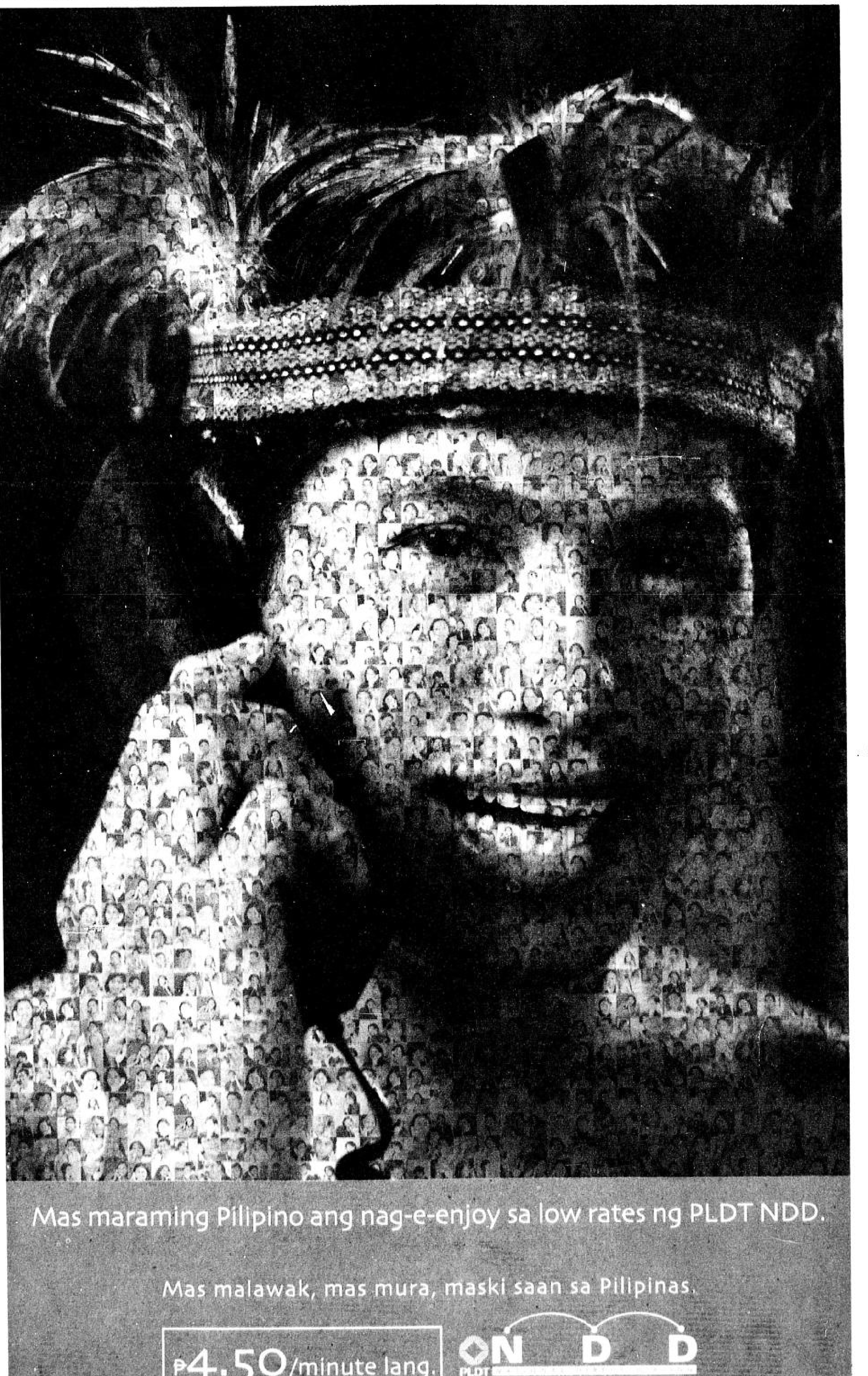
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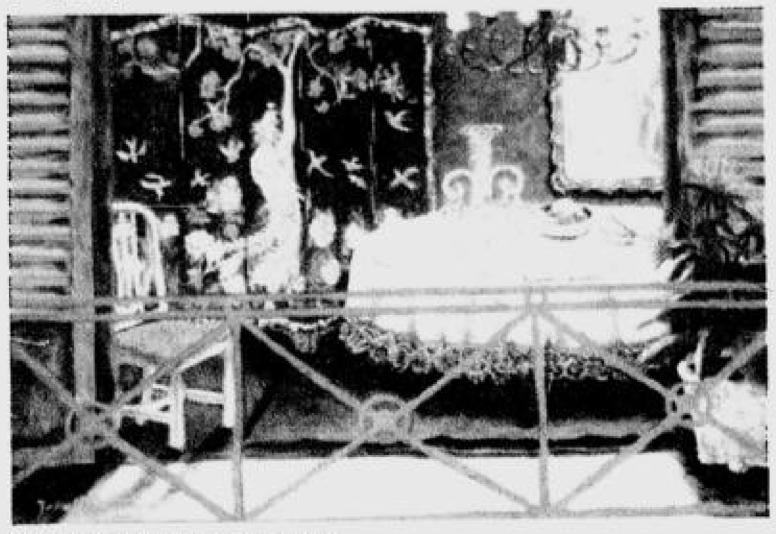
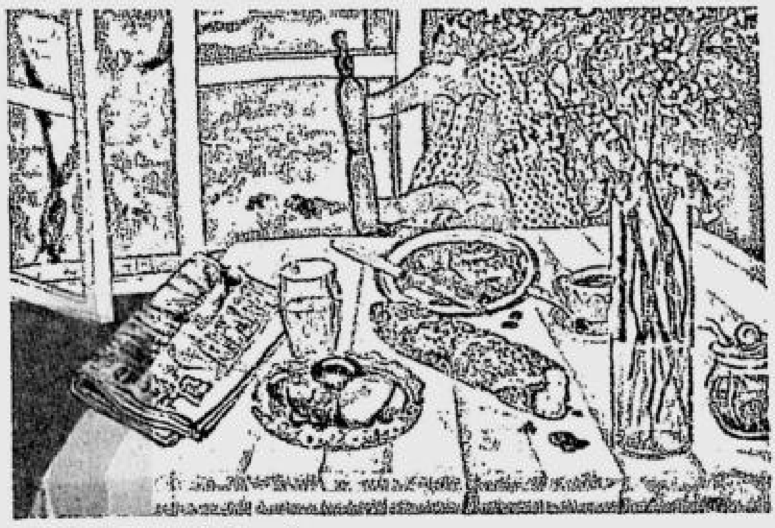


"THE BANTILAN Epergne"



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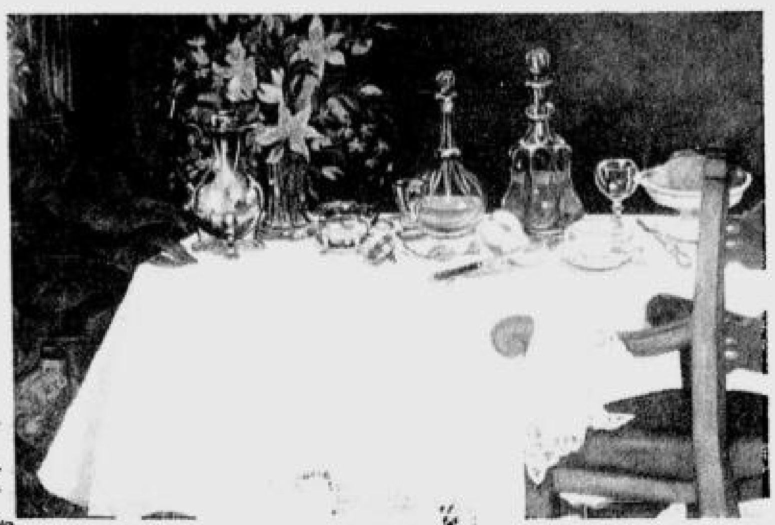


"LA NAPPE"

Phyllis Zaballero's airy clutter and rich riot of colors

From page D1

"For the first 10-20 years I was an abstract artist," she recalls. "Then my art evolved into landscape, the water motif... Portraiture I don't really like. I've done nudes, but they're not for showing yet... A lot of my paintings are of happy memories. I've traveled quite a bit."

Window frame

Some of Zaballero's art theorizing could be seen in her recent exhibit "My Favorite Things" in Galleria Duemila at The Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A. Those were 13 pieces in oil on canvas and acrylic and pencil on Fabriano paper, showing her latest preoccupation—the still life.

Each piece is crammed with objets d'art, food and beverage, furniture, clothing, flowers and foliage, cloisonné, tableware, heirlooms, the imagery often contained within window-like framing or set against a window and a landscape beyond. The sense of open spaces gives the cluttered canvas the effect of airiness, lightness.

Broad areas of flat color are filled with simplified forms, but every object is delicately limned, the perspective just right. In warm and bright tones, the acrylic has been thinly applied on absorbent paper so that from the distance it looks like watercolor wash.

"Acrylic is very, very flexible," says the artist. "It can be treated like watercolor."

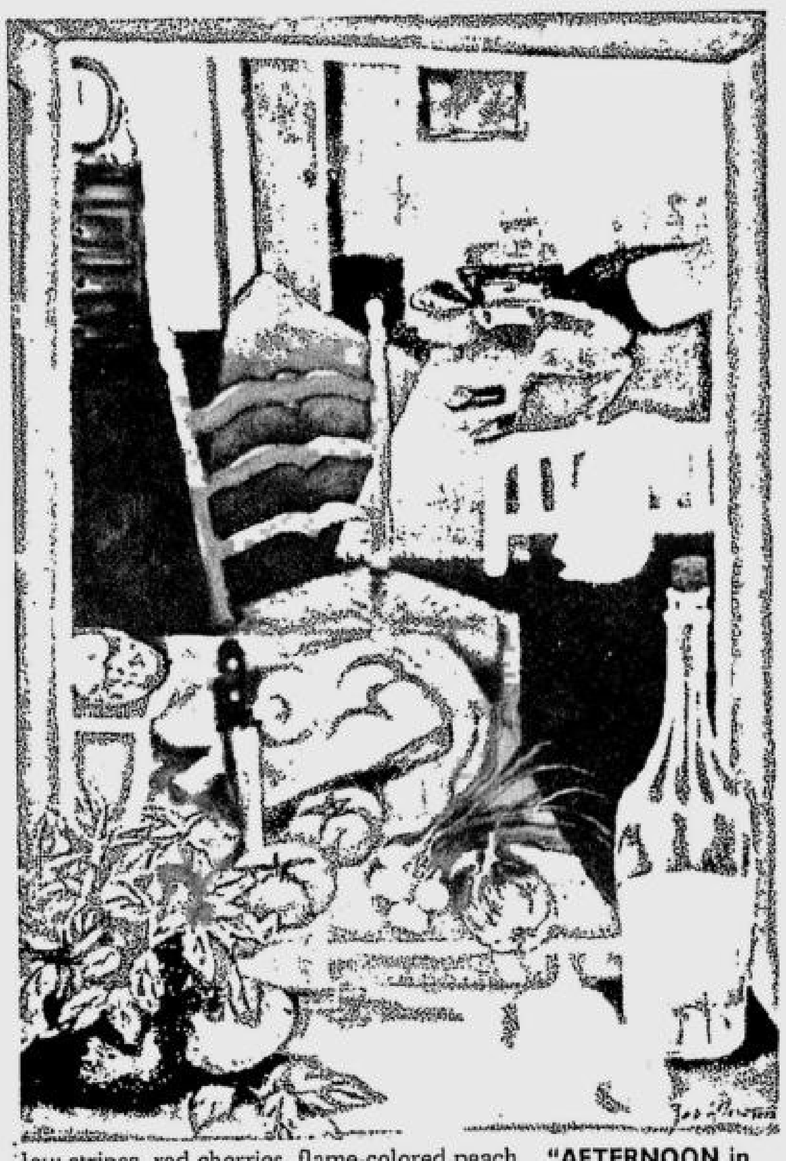
A typical example of this controlled disarray is "Peach," showing an orange chair with a spray of violet and yellow flowers, slices of peach on a fuchsia plate, a red knife and cobalt-blue scissors, tablecloth of blue and white checkers, curtained window shutters with turquoise frames.

Outside the window is a landscape of blue, green, purple and yellow, while the painting on the wall looks like an extension of this pine landscape. If this piece looks Christmas-y, it is because it really must be Christmas, as suggested by the crumpled gift wrapper in a wastebasket in a corner.

"The still life—this was how I painted when I was 10," Zaballero says with a smile and a sweeping gaze around the room.

Joyous palette

One of the most exhilarating sights in the exhibit was "The Morning News," with its joyous palette: a tablecloth of large white and yellow stripes, red cherries, flame-colored peach and violet plums in a green scalloped cut-glass bowl, jar of red strawberry preserve, glass of orange juice, turquoise coffee cup and saucer, brown lump of bread on a turquoise plate stained with red jam and yellow butter, spray of white baby's breath and pink daisies in a tall cylindrical glass vase, purple-and-white harlequin scarf over a green chair, against a deep-blue wall and white-framed window opening to a landscape of green, blue, pink and purple.



"AFTERNOON in Greoux"

"I'm partial to colors that are definite, concentrated, intense," says the artist. "Even the washes in the background are within the range of intense colors. In painting flowers, for example, first I choose the colors, then I decide what the flowers should be."

In "Market Morning," a quarter of a very red round table peeks from a corner and is mirrored above by the cropped form of a sunshade of large blue and white stripes. The rest of the canvas is a colorful riot of brown baguette, spray of yellow flowers and foliage on wrought-iron chair, orange teacup, yellow milk pitcher and gray decanter on the table, shelves neatly arranged with turnips, aubergines, tomatoes, carrots.

"I used a photo for this composition," says the artist. "That vegetable rack was so beautiful, so arranged that the market looked like a stadium."

Zaballero's imagery is not artificially composed. This is an arrangement of objects from memory, sketchbook, photographs and imagination, the bits and pieces captured on canvas as they had been. That is why each piece exudes a sense of felt life: the room lived, the objects used.

Intimate scene

The charming disarray rather jolts in "Afternoon in Greoux." This one attains the intimacy of Bonnard's domestic interiors, the riot of colors, in the green chair, orange rug, yellow towel, red mattress on white bed, yellow walls, blue door, blue table with pink ham slices and white mushroom on brown chopping board, red tomatoes, green leek, ochre onion, white garlic, green potted plant, yellowish potato and a bottle of greenish-yellow olive oil on the brown window ledge.

"That's memory," says the artist. "This is my room. This was where I lived in Provence when I was studying stained-glass technique on a grant."

The accumulation of objects through the years has been frozen in time by her art. "Nothing is ever lost," she exclaims. "Everything is my favorite."

The same can be said of her application of art theories in her work, her assimilation of both Western and Eastern influences: from the sketchiness of Chinese-brush painting to Diebenkorn's treating of the canvas like a window, from Frankenthaler's delicate staining and skillful merging of foreground and background, to Matisse's simplified outline and flat intense hues.

"*Wala akong* formula," Zaballero smiles.

An average-size canvas takes her four days to finish, and six months for big ones like "La Nappe."

This 48" x 72" piece uses three kinds of blue: ultramarine (background), cerulean (porcelain jar of philodendron) and cobalt (chair upholstery). The cool hues are streaked with warm tones, in the decanters of red and amber wines, the bouquet of pink and yellow stargazer lilies and orchids, the flame-red floor rug, the gilt edges of the cup and saucer, the red and gold fruits in the white compote, the sliced pear.

Design challenge

The high level of composition can be discerned in how the artist divides the canvas between blue (background) and white (tablecloth), then cuts through the middle with a row of reflective objects (glass and silverware). This may look simple to the viewer but the artist says it really is a design challenge.

Another design challenge can be found in "The Bantilan Epergne." The artist points out the green railing on the foreground and how she puzzled over how to present it without it being obtrusive to the whole composition.

And how she succeeded—as the railing now accentuates and, together with the slate-blue louver windows, frames the tableau of table setting, fruits, book, antique Venetian glass centerpiece, purple flowers, against a blue wall, gilt mirror and black Japanese screen splashed with pink birds and blossoms.

This piece and "La Nappe" remind us of Matisse's "The Dinner Table (Harmony in Red)." Though the latter uses bright hues while hers are dark and rendered in near monochrome (but for the streaks of pink, yellow, red, gold), both have a similar intensity in the application of color.

Even in pieces that seem drained of color, bright hues suddenly appear like flashes of lightning, as in "The Grape Scissors," "The Geneva Pony" and "The Mango."

Then there are pieces almost Fauvist in the intensity of their hues: "The Moon Cake," "Macau," "Moules Frites," but especially "Waiting for the Entrecôte" (in the yellow flowers in the cut-glass vase, the red wine in the decanter, the deep red of the upholstery of the banquette).

Here, in full force, the colors return.

When nature calls

Danilo Garcia and Jonah Salvosa take to the same environmental path but employ divergent modes

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

ARTISTS who take the environmental cause may not necessarily be hardcore ecologists obsessed with saving the planet. They may, in fact, be nothing more than self-professed naturalists who simply wish to celebrate the beauty and majesty of the universe in their canvases.

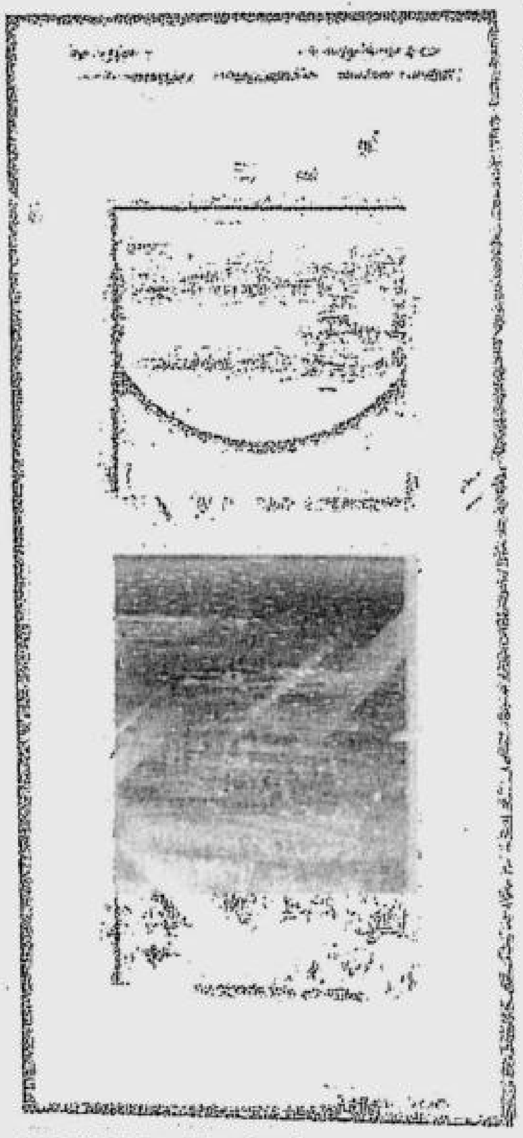
Take the case of abstractionist Danilo Garcia (Gallery 101, until Sept. 30), whose oeuvre has often delved into the subject of God's creation as the quintessential mirror of His divine perfection.

In the past, Garcia depicted the earth as viewed from its changing seasons, evolving landscapes and the undulating rhythms of the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. By focusing on the horizon (the current show is dubbed "God's Horizon [Artist Ism]") as his emblematic image, the artist has set his sights on depicting the grandeur of God's creation, often interjecting his personal insights on what makes up the layers and levels of creation.

Garcia has, time and again, employed the parallax view in his canvases, often breaking up the image in two, with the framed boundaries serving as a natural extension of the window. The dominant image is that of a giant orb, often curiously cropped to highlight his recurring play on light and shadow, and Nature itself, revealing an infinitesimal blue-green topography, symbolic of the vast land and the seas below it.

In recent years, the artist has extolled the minimalist virtues in his canvases, a far cry from his more expressive use of color and brushstrokes in the past. The works may also recall the calligraphic motifs in the works of Phillip Victor, Gus Albor and Lao Lianben, with whom he began working in earnest in the heady days of Grupo 8, a group of University of the East-trained artists.

But the comparison ends here. The artist has definitely come into his own with his distinctively poetic ruminations of a theme that has obsessed him for years. It looks as if the artist has always wanted to take a peek into the great landscape beyond and, like a child, has since never tired of viewing it over and over.



"ARTISM One" by Garcia

Cause-oriented

Jonah Salvosa, on the other hand, is more famously known as a cause-oriented artist who has championed vital contemporary issues affecting the environment.

"ARTISM No. 20" by Danilo Garcia

Though he began by extolling the pristine beauty of our beaches (and the virginal characters who often appear as mythical beauties like *diwatas*), he has, of late, been increasingly making more eloquent statements on the perils of our abuse and misuse of the environment, exposing such evils as widespread pollution, acid rain, global warming and the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

In his recent show, aptly sponsored by and held at the Greenpeace traveling vessel that docked at the South Harbor, Salvosa painted a totally grim picture of modern-day Armageddon, with all living things facing the danger of being engulfed by toxic waters, deadly fumes and the ever-increasing possibility of total extinction.

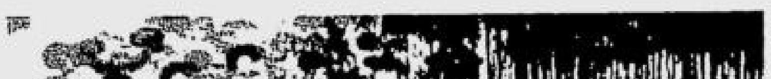
A number of the images in the exhibit dramatize the awesome moments of annihilation. Others are less pronounced in their depiction, by showing contrasting pictures before and after.

These scenes are shown as in the equivalent freeze-frame of the moving picture, but they are nonetheless equally telling in their effect on the viewer, who sees, for example, the lethal effect of an oil spill in "Future, Interrupted" about to envelope a coral site.

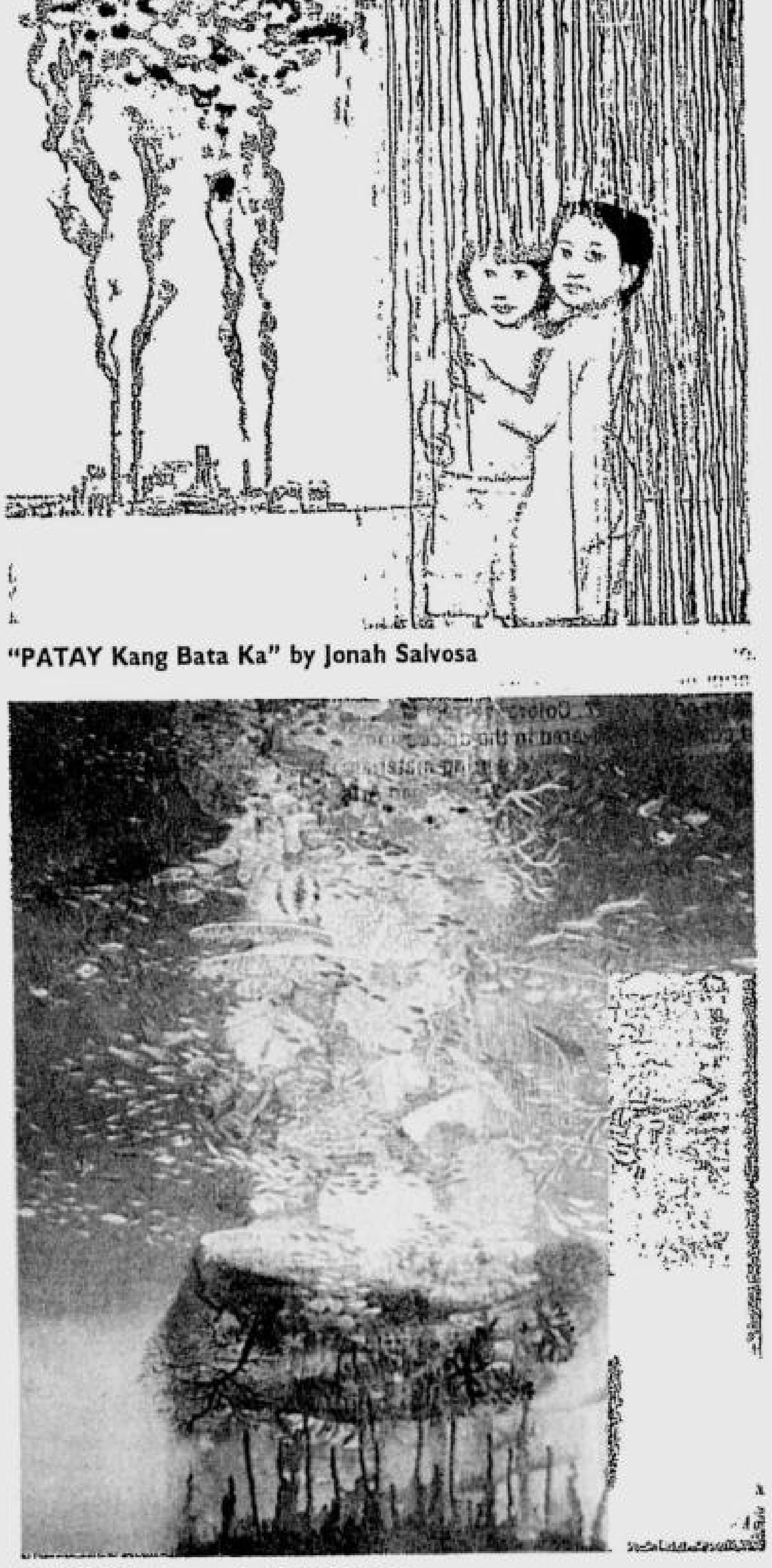
In "Dumating Na," the main image is that of a parched, totally arid earth, here reduced to black-and-white patches, which, indeed, came to reality via that phenomenon called El Niño.

In "Patay Kang Bata Ka," deadly pollution emanating from a factory has literally rained down on a couple of hapless kids, their look of innocence swathed in acid rain.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



"PATAY Kang Bata Ka" by Jonah Salvosa



"FUTURE Interrupted" by Salvosa

GALLERY Nine recently celebrated its third anniversary at its branch at The ArtWalk, SM Megamall A. To mark the event, the gallery presented the works of nine top artists: Ramon Orlina, Michael Cacnio, Marcel Antonio, Fatima Antonio, Alfred Galura, Nikulas Lebajo, Romeo Forbes Jr., Agang Maganda and Lots Manes. Jonathan Sy and Amy Loste are curators of Gallery Nine, whose main showroom is on Jupiter Street, Makati.

MARIO Katigbak and Kitkat Zobel cut the ribbon formally opening Phoenix's (center) exhibit "Variations of the Color Red" at the Ayala Museum. The works are done in the manner of Ukranian synchromist Sonia Deluanay, American synchromist Morgan Russel and Stanton Macdonald Wright. At the back are Annie Roxas, Oskar Peralta and Jong Garcia. Exhibit ends Sept. 30. Ayala Museum is now at the Old Makati Exchange Building on Ayala Avenue, Makati.

Lecture on collecting at Lopez; Leaño at West; Drilon at Aresi

From page D4

ROCK Drilon holds an exhibit, "Selected Works, 1977 to Present," at the Aresi Restaurant-Bar (corner Morato Avenue and Eugenio Lopez Street, QC), on Sept. 25. Call 660-1955

ROYSTON Taylor and wife Grace Marie Kalaw-Katigbak hold a joint exhibit, "Two Makers," at Hiraya Gallery (530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila) until Sept. 30. The artists prefer to be called makers rather than painter or sculptor. For the exhibit, Kalaw-Katigbak contributes several fairly large paintings in oil on board. Taylor has an equal number of steel sculptures of female nudes and horses. Call 523-3331 or e-mail hiraya@info.com.ph or visit www.hiraya.com.

THE SANCTUARY Gallery, Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City, exhibits 40 photographs from the period 1908-2002 as part of the Baguio Stone Market retrospective photographs. On view until Oct. 9. Call 442-4602.

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the French Business Association of the Philippines (Le Club), together with Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, present "Arts Croises," an exposition of the works of noted Filipino artists Impy Pilapil and Edmund Bendijo, until Sept. 29, at the Art Café lobby gallery of the Inter-Con. The art show is part of the celebration of Philippine-French Friendship by the two organizations. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the artworks will go to the hotel's community and social projects.

WOMEN artists of Negros present "Tam-is" at Syano Artlink, 19 Shanghai St., Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City. Participating artists include Mona Quevenco, Leah Samson, Moreen Austria and Nilda Claveraz. *Tam-is* is "sweet" in Hiligaynon. The exhibit runs until Sept. 30.

MARK Justiniani presents "2002," his fifth solo exhibition, at Galleria Duemila until Sept. 29. The artist's recent works are made with Filipino jeepney artists Larry Villanueva and Arvin Miranda. Justiniani represented the Philippines in the Sydney Biennale 2000. Call 634-3261/831-9990, telefax 633-6687, 833-9815 or e-mail duemila~mydestiny.net, duemila@jnfo.com.ph, or visit www.galleriaduemila.com.

"INTENSIONS," a two-man show featuring Kiko Escora and Mariano Ching, and which revolves around tension, is ongoing until Sept. 28 at Boston Gallery. Call 722-9205.

RONALD Ventura and Andres Barrioquinto are holding one-man shows at The Drawing Room until Oct. 9. Ventura's "Body" is at the gallery's new space while Barrioquinto's "Ripe—with Decay" is at the main gallery. The Drawing Room is at Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. Call 897-7877/6990.

"REMINISCENCES" by Jorge G. Banawa opens at 4 p.m., Sept. 27, Batangas Country Club, Bolbok, Batangas City. The exhibit runs until Oct. 11. Call (043) 722-0820/1228.

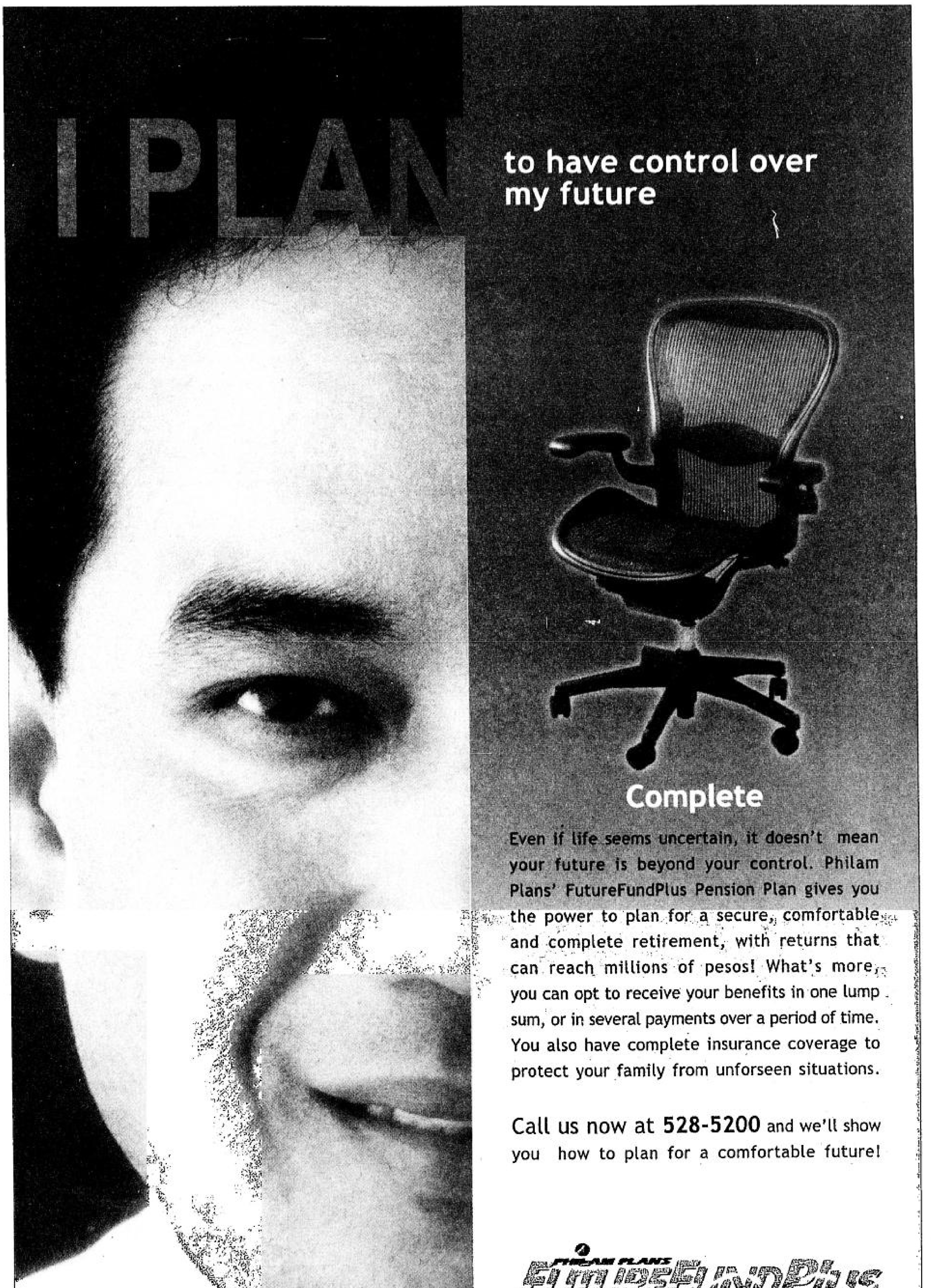
LEARN from international lighting designer Shoko Matsumoto, who will conduct an Interior Lighting Design workshop on Sept. 28-29. Course fee is P3,300, covering lunch and materials. Boysen Paints will conduct a workshop on Interior Painting for contractors, interior designers, house painters and homemakers on Sept. 27. Colors, correct application and costing are covered in the discussion. Registration fee is P200, covering materials and lunch. Workshops are held at the Sinag Arts Studio, 664 San Ignacio St., Mandaluyong City. E-mail sinag@fastmail.i-next.net, or call 531-3491 or fax 531-9524.

Animé workshop

ON SEPT. 28, 9 a.m.-12 nn, the Ayala Museum holds a special animé workshop for children at the rear gallery of the museum, to complement its special exhibit titled "Amorsolo's Brush with History."

The workshop, "Animé-ing Amorsolo," is open to all animé enthusiasts ages 10-16. Facilitator is Herbeth Fondevilla, a fine arts graduate from the University of the Philippines and an active member of the Illustrador ng Kabataan. Admission is P250.

Call 812-1191 to -95 local 103 or e-mail mgpedraja@ayalamuseum.com. The Ayala Museum galleries are located at the G/F of the old Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.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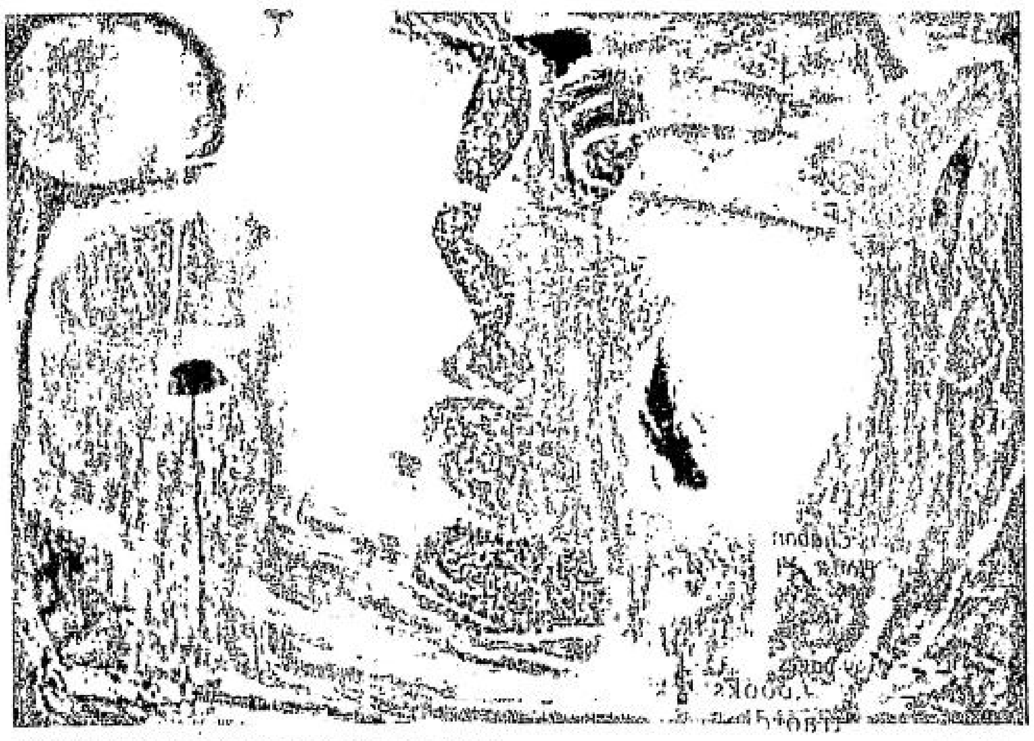

"ORANGE Nail," by Rock Drilon, at Aresi

Lecture on collecting at Lopez; Leaño at West; Drilon at Aresi

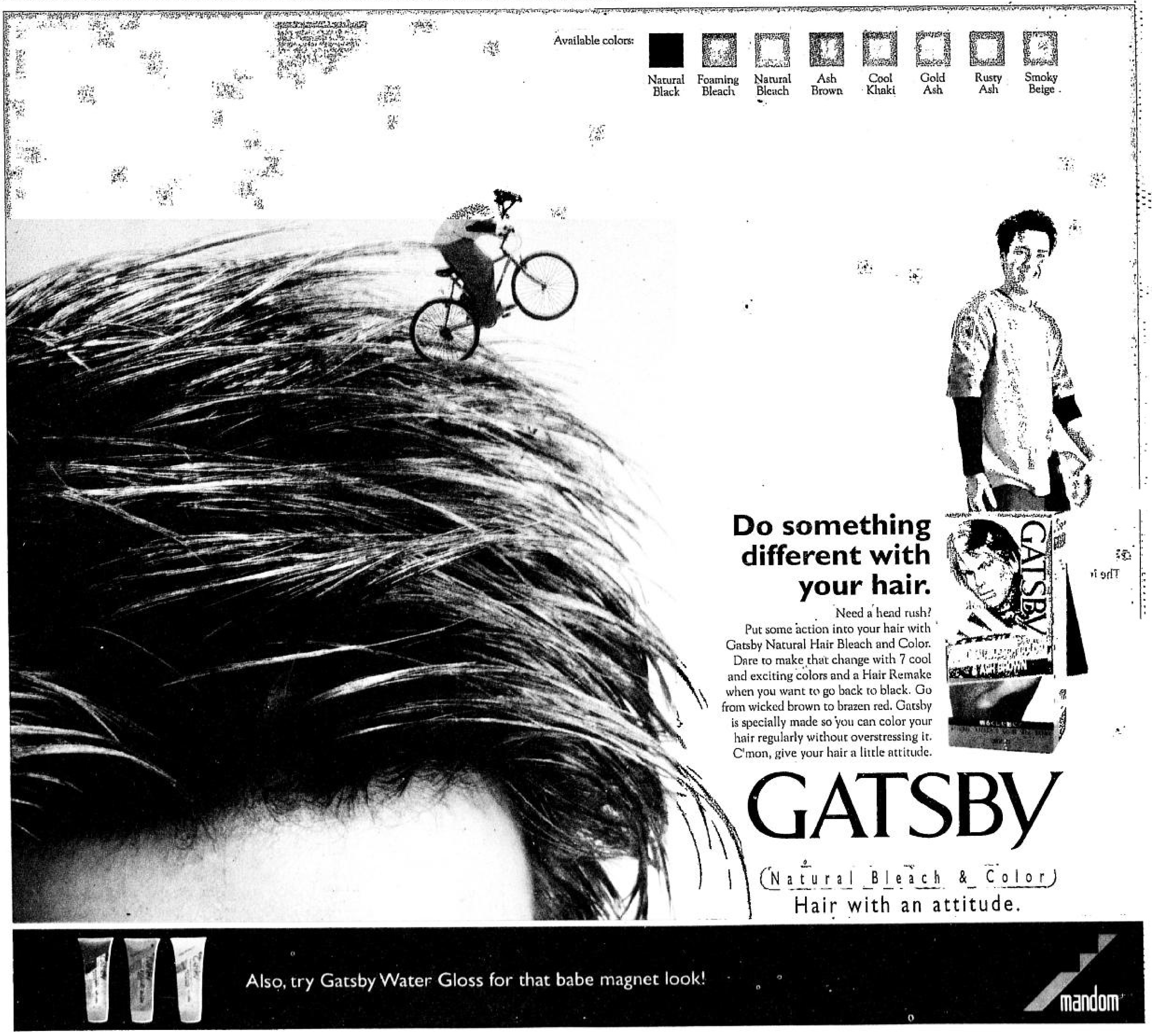
VISUAL ARTS

A CONSORTIUM of private museums—Ayala Museum, Ateneo Art Gallery and the Lopez Memorial Museum—presents "Zero In: Private Art, Public Lives," a series of exhibitions. The consortium marks the first time three of the country's most important museums have come together to consolidate their potentials and work hand in hand. The collaborative effort aims to widen audiences and increase the understanding of local art history by using the strong collections of the institutions. Aside from the exhibitions, the consortium has also organized lectures and workshops. Ramon N. Villegas talks on "Nation and Collecting," 2 p.m., Sept. 28, at the Lopez Memorial Museum. Call 449-2355.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY artist Antonio Leaño features his latest works in "Variants" at West Gallery, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Using elastomeric cement as medium, Leaño achieves a tactile and visual dialogue with "Variants." The exhibit runs Sept. 26-Oct. 8. Call 752-7028 to -29 or visit www.westgallery.net.

ROCK Drilon

LECTURE/ p.D3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‘Kavalier’ attitude

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay
by Michael Chabon
Random House, New York,
2000, 639 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

POWERFUL books acknowledge their extraordinary nature the moment readers begin leafing through their unevenly cut pages.

“The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay” announces its flight into popular consciousness not only with a self-assured display of narrative pyrotechnics, but also with a literary nebulousness, a penchant for defying easy stereotypes.

REVIEW

After all, author Michael Chabon had crafted a whimsically wicked novel about genius and golden ages in the critically acclaimed “Wonder Boys.”

But now Chabon lets loose, coming up with a sweeping saga of creation and romance, of tragedy and timelessness, in “Kavalier,” which deals with World War II, comic books, homosexuality and romance. So yes, the book deals, in an epic fashion, with genius and golden ages.

“Kavalier” details the unique creative collaboration between two cousins: wiseacre New Yorker Sam Clay, who possesses a bent for sweet-talking and breakthroughs, and Prague native Josef “Joe” Kavalier, the intensely talented artist with the brooding personality. “Kavalier” tells of their separate yet integrated tales—and of the many escapes they seek.

Sam wants to rise above the gritty, so-so everyday existence he has with his difficult mother. He wants to be big and he knows comic books will provide his way out. In a brilliant opening gambit, Josef escapes from Nazi-occupied Prague with the help of an old magician, and accompanied, it seems, by the mythical Golem of Prague, the Jewish monster of clay.

Word games

Games of words abound as Joe somehow makes his way to America, and together with Sam, they find their way to financial success as the creators of a masker super-hero called, what else, The Escapist. Soon, the two find themselves flying up, up and away to their dreams—and Joe falls in love with a beautiful woman named Rosa Saks.

But now World War II truly breaks out. Lives are lost, love is found and a monkey wrench is thrown into the lives of the cousins.

In mesmerizing prose, Chabon speaks of Joe’s own escapes, to a war, to obscurity. Like the classic hero’s travels, Joe cleanses himself in the crucible of his heart before returning to America. Chabon also writes, with a sharp edge, the process of Sam’s discovery of his own homosexuality, as well as the consequential scandals and a daring sacrifice for Joe’s sake.

After the war, Chabon picks up where he left off, reuniting the cousins in a time and place where everything has changed.

Chabon wraps all of this in delightfully sleek literary language as well as a smattering of cameo appearances by the likes of Salvador Dali. In fact, part of “Kavalier’s” allure is how reality and fiction seamlessly slides in and out of the pages.

Chabon would alternate scenes of a big party attended by the two protagonists with the imagined adventures of The Escapist, with pluck and poise, echoing the mixture of commerce and magic that the more fascinating character, Joe, enjoys and escapes to.

Obscure

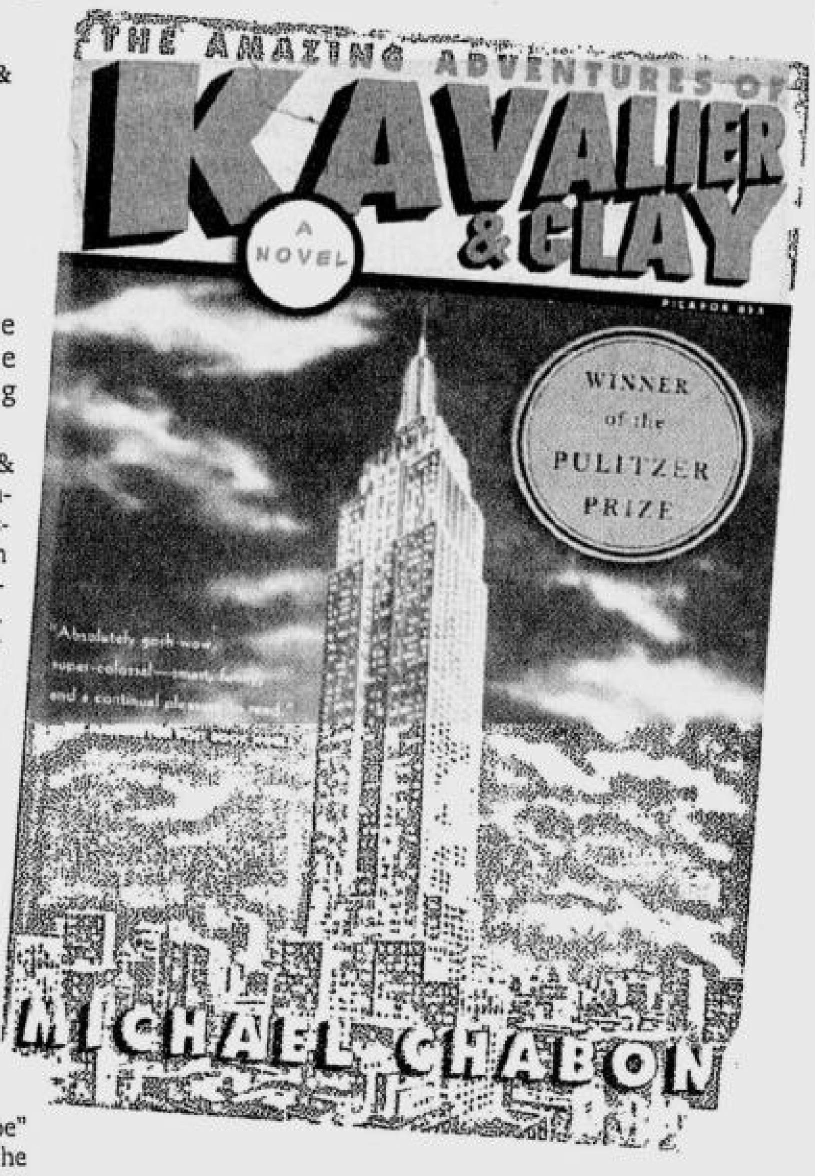
The impressive aspects of “Kavalier” go beyond its authentic tackling of a very obscure genre (Golden Age comic books) or its truly lush, literary approach, but how it mixes and matches diverse elements in a broad, irresistible adventure spanning decades. Chabon orchestrates it with a knowing ability to draw a sense of wonder as well as a deep appreciation for life’s irony and little victories.

And in a strange twist on art imitating life, the Escapist will soon be featured in an actual comic book series.

How powerful is Chabon’s prose? Readers will feel as though they actually read the comic adventures of The Escapist—even if the hero is not pictured at all. The stacking of meaty plots, the daring literary deceptions, the integration of real-world dilemmas and the advantage of having truly interesting protagonists in an interesting profession in a most interesting time—all these make Michael Chabon’s “The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay” an intoxicating, fulfilling read that may even be more impressive for those unfamiliar with the workings of comic book people than for those in the know.

And that is the best proof of just how foolproof this prize-winning fictional escape act is, with or without the masks.

Available in paperback from PowerBooks and selected National Book Store branches.



This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel from the author of ‘Wonder Boys’ is a full-blown adventure like no other

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Room For Squares / John Mayer
No Such Thing
Keyword: nosuch

Let Go / Avril Lavigne
Complicated
Keyword: complicated

Modern Rock 2 / Various Artists
Wasting My Time by Default
Keyword: wastingmytym
Keyword: california

The Eminem Show / Eminem
Cleanin Out My Closet
Keyword: mycloset

Nellyville / Nelly
Dilemma
Keyword: dilemma

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Download logos, pictures, and ringtones from the Top 25 albums for a chance to win 5 Acer V750 cellphones and 1 Acer Travelmate 223X laptop computer.
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acer

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SMART Simply Amazing!

TOWER Top 25 Albums of the Week MI

1 Josh Groban
Josh Groban
2 Room For Squares
John Mayer
keyword: nosuch
3 You Had Me At Hello
Various Artists
keyword: ilbc
4 Let Go
Avril Lavigne
keyword: complicated
5 Chillout Project
Various Artists
6 Sharon 25 Years 25 Hits
Sharon Cuneta
7 Live Series
Various Artists
8 Nellyville
Nelly
keyword: dilemma
9 Modern Rock 2
Various Artists
keyword: wastingmytym
keyword: california
10 A Walk To Remember-OST
keyword: gonnabluv
11 Lilo & Stitch-OST
keyword: hunnnluv
12 All Rise: Special Edition
Blue
13 A Rush Of Blood To The Head
Coldplay
14 Very Best Of MTV Unplugged
Various Artists
15 The Eminem Show
Eminem
keyword: mycloset
16 Reanimation
Linkin Park
keyword: crawling
keyword: mydecember
17 Ono Lisa Best 1997-2001
Lisa Ono
18 Come Away With Me
Norah Jones
19 Simply The Best 60's
Various Artists
20 Deep River
Utada Hikaru
21 Joey's Moods
Various Artists
22 Romance
Frank Sinatra
23 Reigne: Revised
Regine Velasquez
24 XXX-OST
25 Make Yourself (Repackaged)
Incubus

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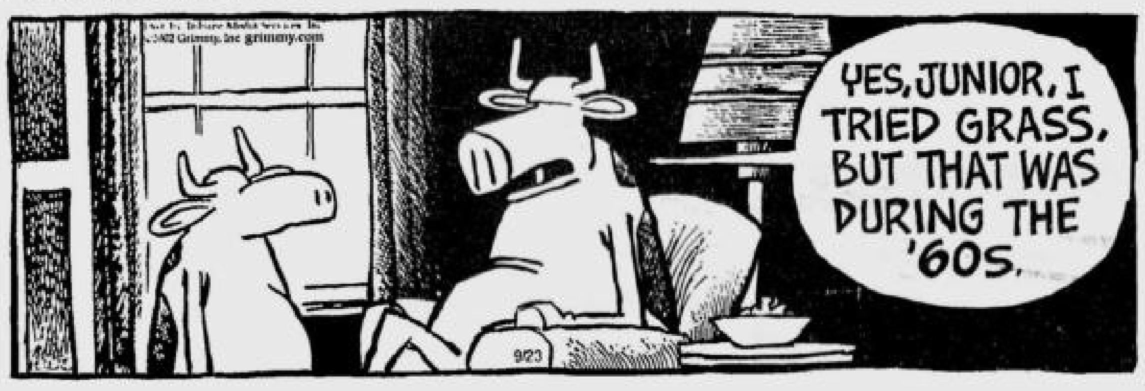
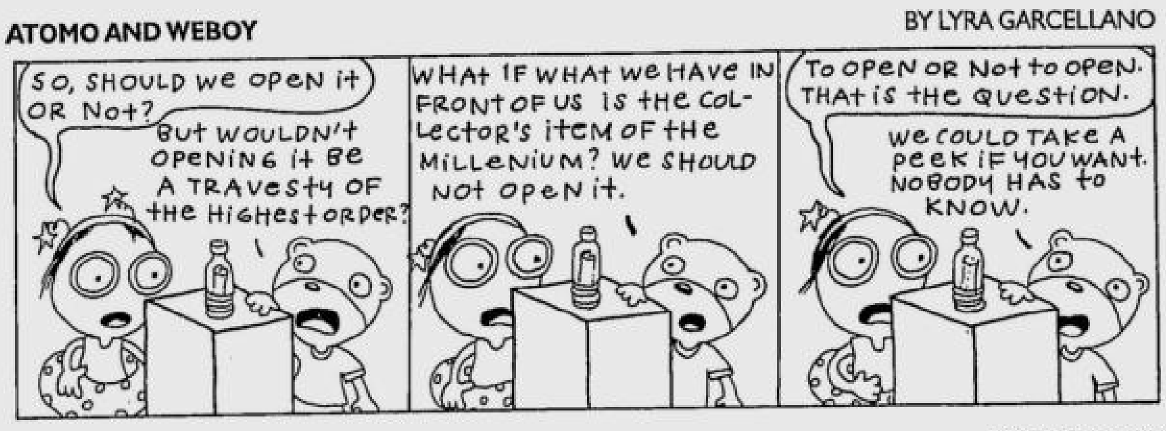
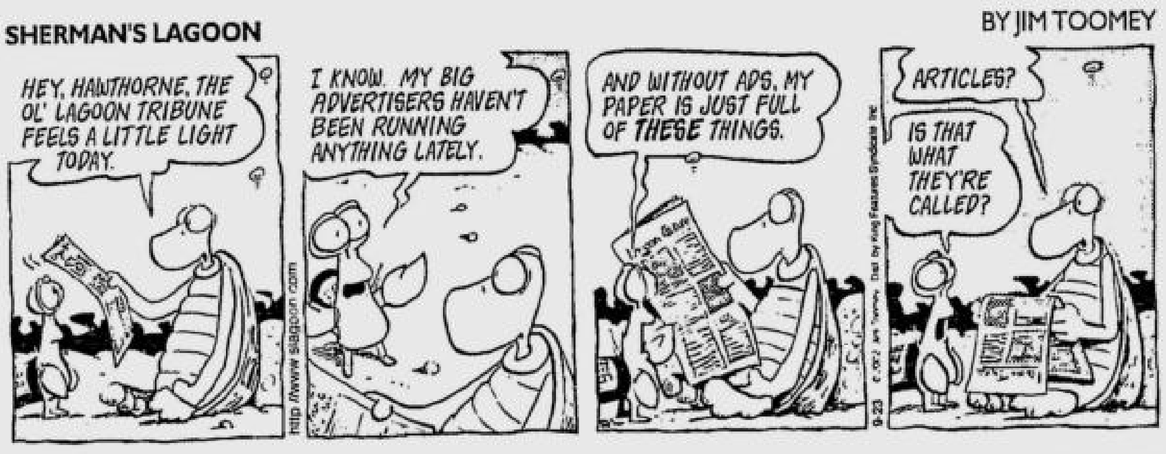
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


YES, JUNIOR, I TRIED GRASS, BUT THAT WAS DURING THE '60S.
9/23

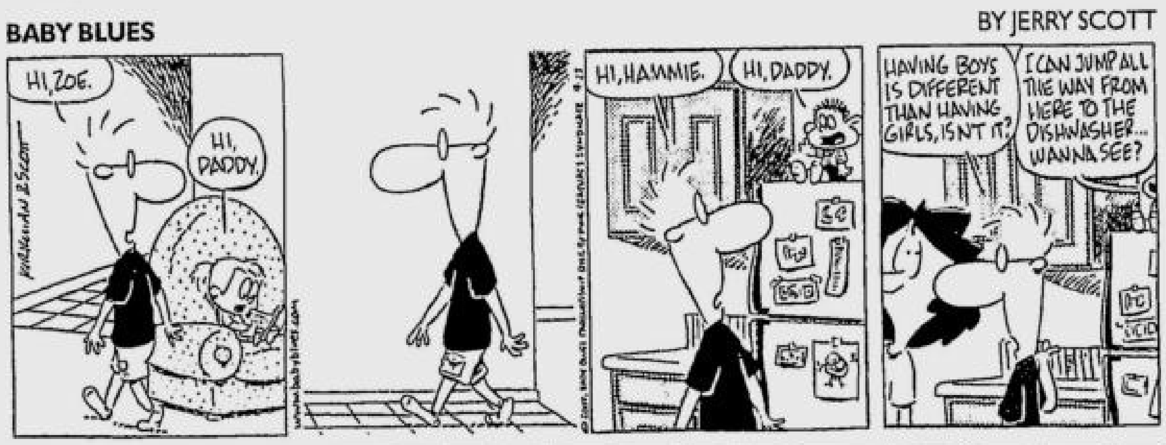
ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO, SHOULD WE OPEN IT OR NOT?
BUT WOULDN'T OPENING IT BE A TRAVESTY OF THE HIGHEST ORDER?
WHAT IF WHAT WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US IS THE COLLECTOR'S ITEM OF THE MILLENIUM? WE SHOULD NOT OPEN IT.
TO OPEN OR NOT TO OPEN. THAT IS THE QUESTION.
WE COULD TAKE A PEEK IF YOU WANT. NOBODY HAS TO KNOW.

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, HAWTHORNE, THE OL' LAGOON TRIBUNE FEELS A LITTLE LIGHT TODAY.
I KNOW. MY BIG ADVERTISERS HAVEN'T BEEN RUNNING ANYTHING LATELY.
AND WITHOUT ADS, MY PAPER IS JUST FULL OF THESE THINGS.
ARTICLES?
IS THAT WHAT THEY'RE CALLED?
http://www.slagoon.com
9-23

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


HI, ZOE.
HI, DADDY.
HI, HAMMIE.
HI, DADDY.
HAVING BOYS IS DIFFERENT THAN HAVING GIRLS, ISN'T IT?
I CAN JUMP ALL THE WAY FROM HERE TO THE DISHWASHER... WANNA SEE?
www.babyblues.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julio Iglesias, Ray Charles, Bruce Springsteen, Jason Alexander

Happy Birthday: You will have inner strength, depth and courage, which will help you reach your goals. This is a year of rewards and recognition. You will have no trouble drumming up some help if you want it,your ability to make others feel important will bring you the kind of popularity you've always wanted. Your numbers are 6, 8, 13, 22, 28, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is a great day to set your standards high and focus on self-improvement. Emotional problems will develop if you try to force your will on others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't count on getting help with your tasks today. If there is someone special in your life, today is a great day to further or nurture that relationship. Talks regarding personal issues will go well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get together with people who are older or younger than you. You will relate to different generations better and you will also learn a great deal if you listen to the way these individuals view things.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Start thinking more about your health and well-being. Eat properly and exercise. You will be able to use your knowledge to teach others how to do things, but first you must set a good example.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't turn down an invitation today. Family gatherings will lead to a new romantic connection. This is the perfect day to communicate your feelings and personal goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work, work and more work is exactly what will pay the bills and get you back on track financially. You can make career changes if you are willing to put in some learning time. You have to set a game plan.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can surprise everyone around you with your ingenious ideas and your creative talent. You will be able to make some sensational personal changes that will leave everyone admiring how good you look.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Work should go well as long as you immerse yourself in your job. Someone you live with may be hard to please. Don't overreact to the changes going on all around you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This is not the day to sit around being lazy. Get out and socialize. Opportunities to become passionately involved with someone you already have connected with or someone entirely new will make your day superb.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be harboring some emotional issues that should be dealt with, especially if they have to do with someone elderly. Don't let the ones you love rule your every move.

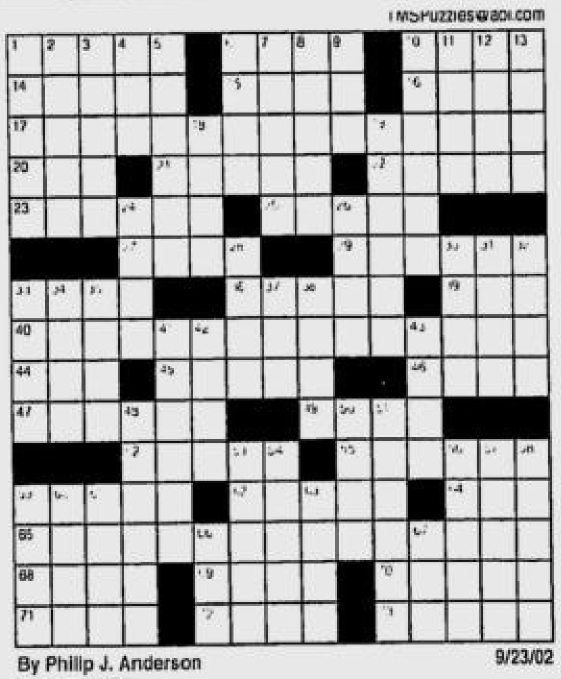
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be anxious if you don't make plans to do something that requires a little competitive energy. Get out with friends. New love interests may be met through the company you keep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Hidden matters may come back to haunt you. Be an observer today, keeping your thoughts to yourself. Be sure to do your job well, but don't let someone take you for granted.

Birthday Baby: You will make your family proud and you will stand out in a crowd. You will always be ahead of your peers and you will lead others in a positive direction.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

ACROSS
1 Speeder spotter
6 Last bio
10 Tommy Lee Jones film
14 Old MacDonald's refrain
15 Comic Carvey
16 Feast on Oahu
17 Inept aid for running backs?
20 Trucking regulating agcy.
21 Large, striped antelope
22 Frank McCourt's "Angela's __"
23 Dissertations
25 Gaze fixedly
27 Square measure
29 Dwindle
33 Jai __
36 Like prunes and raisins
39 Grand __ Opry
40 Tacklers' training?
44 Small child
45 Maximum bet
46 Star part
47 Impassive
49 __ bene
52 Hersey's bell town
55 Cellmate?
59 Cognizant
62 Steve or Woody
64 Otto I's realm
65 Job of offensive linemen?
68 Spicy stew
69 Viewed
70 Find a new tenant for a flat
71 Editor's directive
72 Writer Ferber
73 School for Sartre

DOWN
1 Take a makeup exam
2 Eighth letter
3 Tennis tie?
4 Objective
5 Thief
6 Norse Zeus
7 Slams
8 Gold bar
9 PC key
10 Shuts
11 Cry of pain
12 Oven setting
13 Quick kiss
18 Misplace
19 Texas town
24 Spanker or spinnaker
26 One Baldwin
28 Tennis situation
30 Peeved
31 "Born Free" lioness
32 Poverty
33 Play parts
34 Spoils taken
35 Sax for Bird
37 Mythical bird
38 Privy to
41 Footnote reference
42 Ms. Thompson
43 __-Ude, Russia
48 Rodeo rope
50 Oil cartel's letters
51 Faculty status
53 Identified
54 Mary Kate and Ashley
56 Sleuth Vance
57 Soviet collective
58 Philippines island
59 Follower of Joel
60 Poet Whitman
61 Wheel shaft
63 Chanteuse Horne
66 Employ
67 _ _ room

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

E	T	A	G	E	R	E	■	O	B	V	I	A	T	E
S	I	D	E	M	E	N	■	B	R	E	N	N	A	N
S	C	H	M	I	D	T	■	L	A	R	K	I	N	G
E	K	E	■	T	R	I	L	O	G	Y	■	M	A	R
N	E	R	D	■	A	C	I	N	G	■	S	A	G	O
C	R	E	E	■	W	I	N	G	■	S	A	T	E	S
E	S	S	A	Y	I	N	G	■	D	U	P	E	R	S
■	■	■	C	O	N	G	E	R	E	E	L	■	■	■
S	T	R	O	N	G	■	R	U	S	T	I	C	A	L
H	O	U	N	D	■	W	I	R	E	■	N	A	V	E
A	L	M	S	■	B	A	N	A	L	■	G	R	E	G
R	U	M	■	M	I	N	G	L	E	S	■	B	R	A
P	E	A	S	A	N	T	■	I	C	E	B	O	A	T
E	N	G	O	R	G	E	■	S	T	R	A	N	G	E
N	E	E	D	L	E	D	■	T	S	E	T	S	E	S

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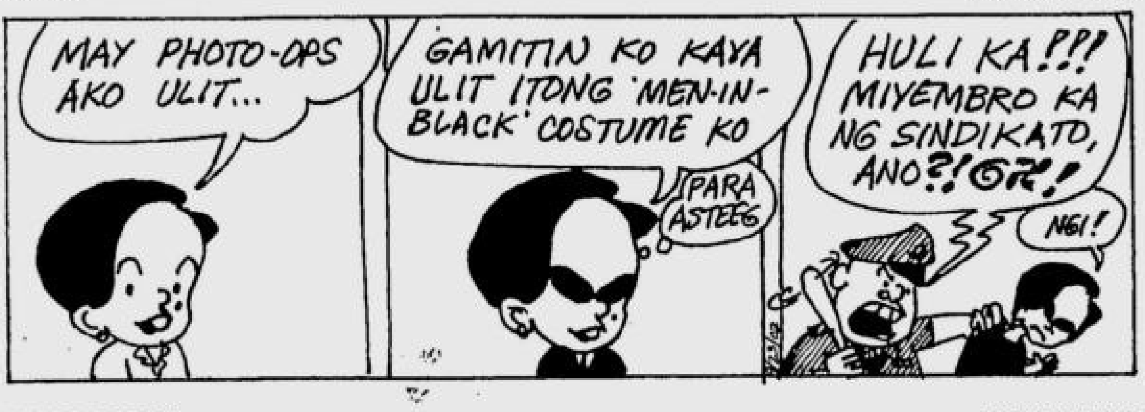
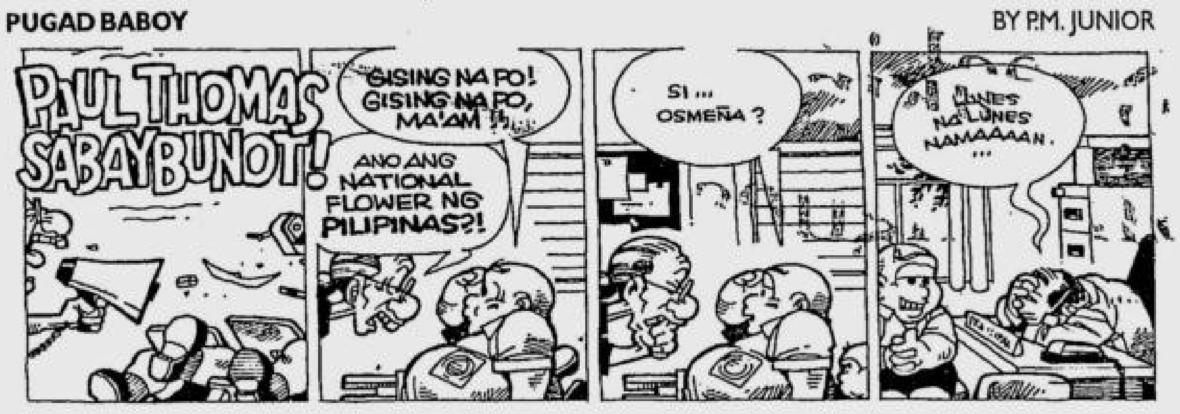
9/23/02

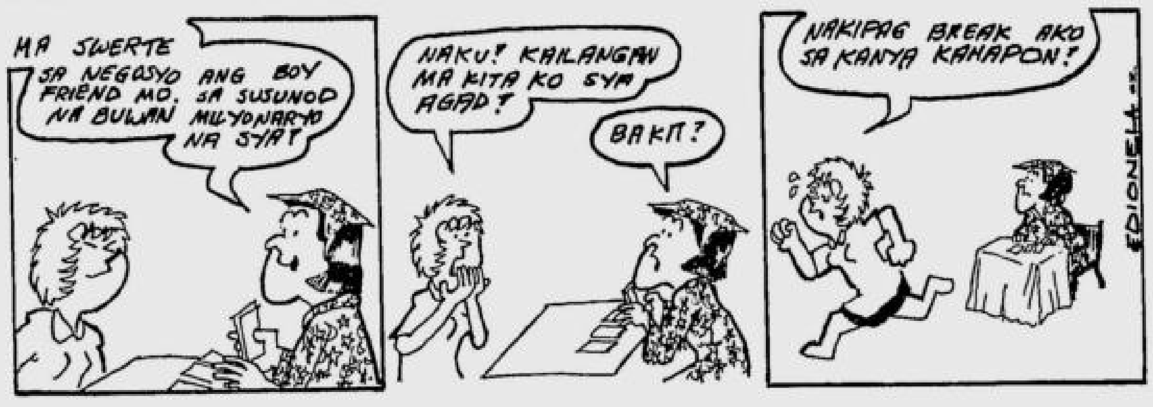
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


MAY PHOTO-OPS AKO ULIT...
GAMITIN KO KAYA ULIT ITONG 'MEN-IN-BLACK' COSTUME KO
PARA ASTEEG
HULI KA?!! MIYEMBRO KA NG SINDIKATO, ANO?!
NGI!

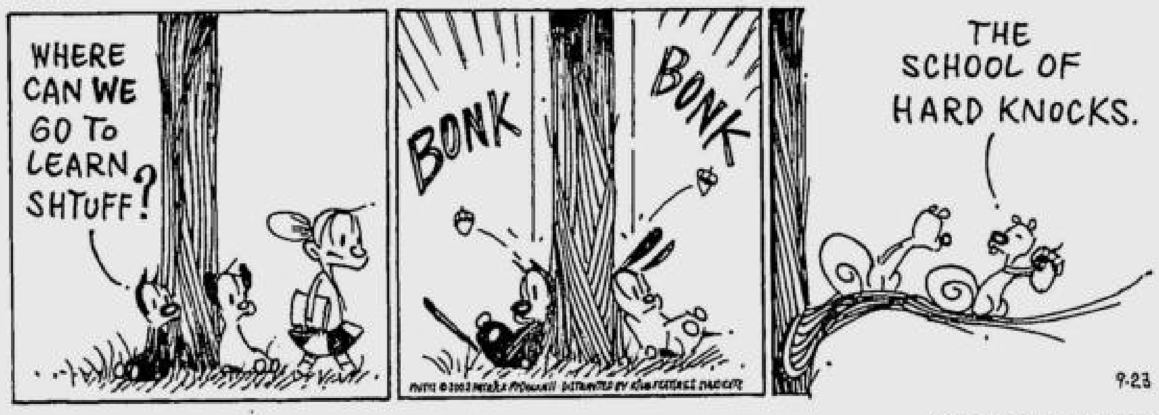
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAUL THOMAS SABAYBUNOT!
GISING NA PO! GISING NA PO, MA'AM
ANO ANG NATIONAL FLOWER NG PILIPINAS?!
SI... OSMEÑA ?
LUNES NG LUNES NAMAAAAN. ...

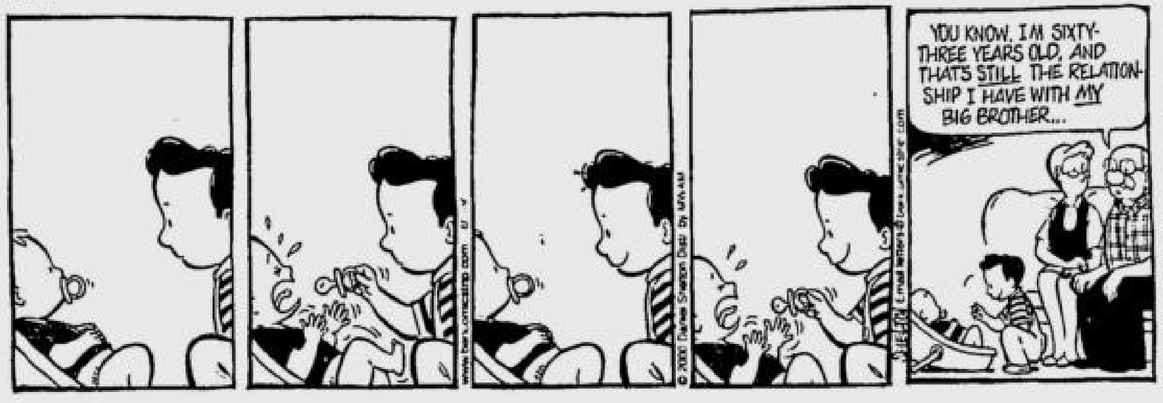
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


MA SWERTE SA NEGOSYO FRIEND MO, NA BULAN
ANG BOY SA SUSUNOD MILYONARYO NA SYA!
NAKU! KAILANGAN MA KITA KO SYA AGAD!
BAKIT?
NAKIPAG BREAK AKO SA KANYA KAHAPON!
EDIONELA

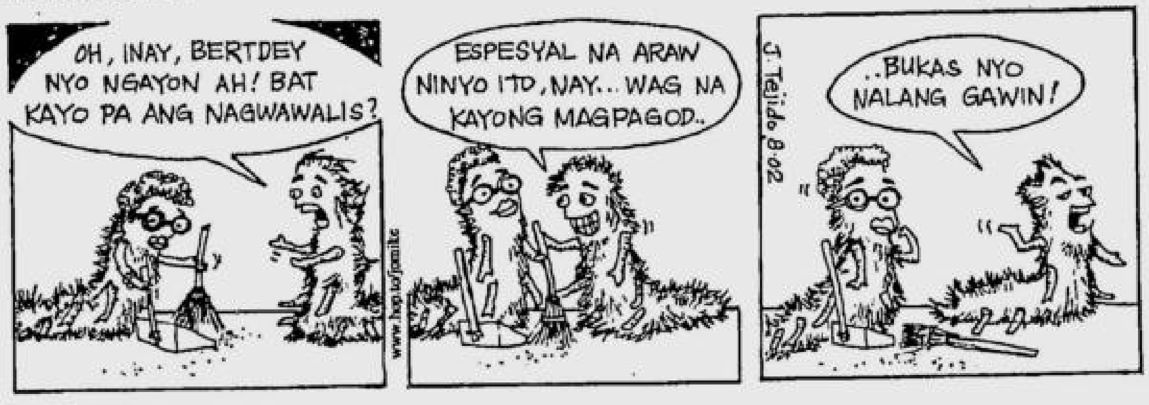
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHERE CAN WE GO TO LEARN SHTUFF?
BONK
BONK
THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS.
9-23

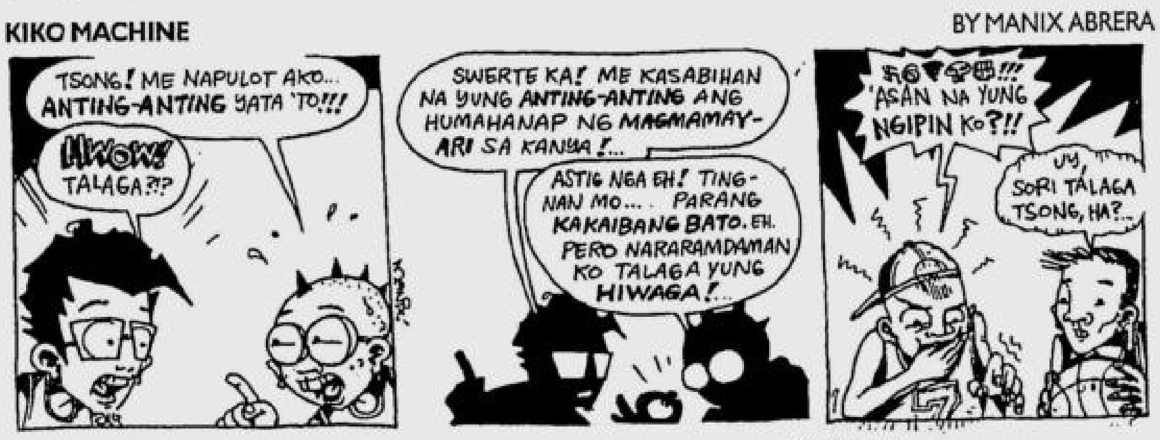
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU KNOW, I'M SIXTY-THREE YEARS OLD, AND THAT'S STILL THE RELATIONSHIP I HAVE WITH MY BIG BROTHER...

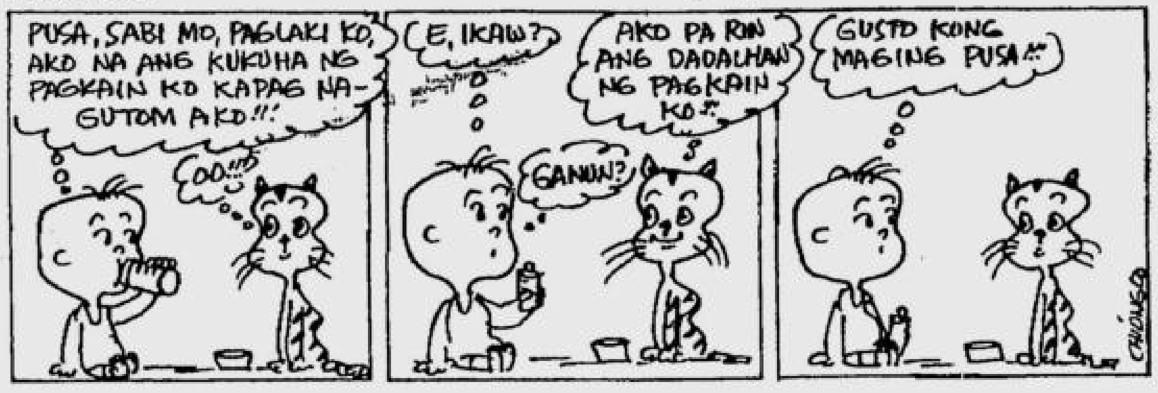
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OH, INAY, BERTDEY NYO NGAYON AH! BAT KAYO PA ANG NAGWAWALIS?
ESPESYAL NA ARAW NINYO ITO, NAY... WAG NA KAYONG MAGPAGOD..
J. Tejido 8-02
..BUKAS NYO NALANG GAWIN!

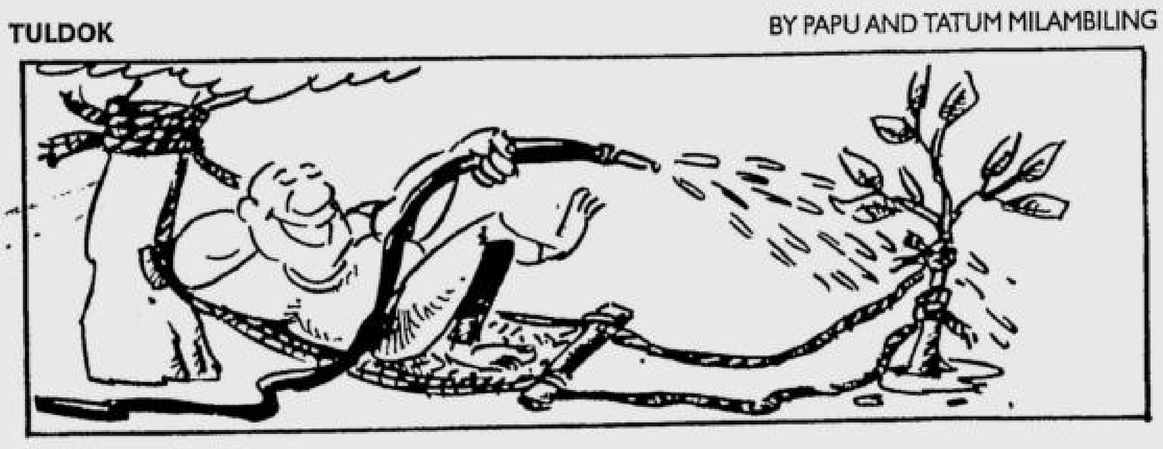
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG! ME NAPULOT AKO... ANTING-ANTING YATA 'TO!!!
WOW! TALAGA?!?
SWERTE KA! ME KASABIHAN NA YUNG ANTING-ANTING ANG HUMAHANAP NG MAGMAMAY-ARI SA KANYA!...
ASTIG NGA EH! TINGNAN MO... PARANG KAKAIBANG BATO. EH. PERO NARARAMDAMAN KO TALAGA YUNG HIWAGA!...
'ASAN NA YUNG NGIPIN KO?!!
UY, SORI TALAGA TSONG, HA?..

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, SABI MO, PAGLAKI KO, AKO NA ANG KUKUHA NG PAGKAIN KO KAPAG NAGUTOM AKO!!!
OO!!!
E, IKAW?
AKO PA RIN ANG DADALHAN NG PAGKAIN KO!!
GANUN?
GUSTO KONG MAGING PUSA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



BLC-Philippines chair Renato Contantino Jr. and Berlitz Int'l. CEO and president Mark Harris

Speaking in tongues

By Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

ITALIAN-BORN actor Al Pacino sought this man's help when he played Scarface, a Spanish-cussing Cuban immigrant gangster in America. Arnold Schwarzenegger also approached him at some point in his budding movie career. So did Julio Iglesias when he recorded his first English album.

Mark Harris is neither a publicist nor an image consultant, although his field of expertise does enhance celebrities' performance and overall personality. Harris is a languages man, the president and CEO of Berlitz Languages Inc. Meeting well-known personalities is but a perk of the trade, but if they also happen to be satisfied customers, their word becomes solid testimony to Berlitz's reputation.

It was while he was the center's language director, spending much of his time in Los Angeles, that Harris got to meet many celebrities, he said in an interview during a recent visit to the country.

One was soccer legend Pelé who, having learned English at Berlitz back in Brazil, now wanted to enroll his woman friend in a similar course. Harris put together an eight-week, six-lessons-a-day basic course for the woman who later became Brazil's biggest star, Xuxa, a singer-dancer and children's show host.

Harris also devised a program for Pacino, helped Schwarzenegger soften his accent, and trained Iglesias in correct English pronunciation.

"Olivia Hussey married a Japanese singer and wanted to learn Japanese. So her husband brought her to Berlitz because that's where he learned English... Yes, we do have a good number of stars for students," Harris remarked, recounting his encounters with stars with relish—and he wasn't just name-dropping.

Like thousands of other Berlitz students all over the world, these celebrities wanted to be able to converse in another language as naturally as though they were native speakers. But because of the nature of their profession, they had to undergo courses that were private and built around their demanding schedules.

"For them time is precious. They appreciated the lessons [because] their time was not wasted," he said.

The best and only way

Personalized instruction is Berlitz's strength. With six as the biggest class size, students enjoy one-on-one instruction and actually get to converse with their instructor. And that was the best—the only—way to learn to speak a new language, Harris said.

"You can study a language for 10 or 12 years, but unless you actually spend time speaking it, you cannot be fluent," he remarked, bringing to mind the four semesters in college one spent on the conjugation of Spanish verbs, and retaining just that—conjugations (*o, as, a, amos, ais, an*).

The Berlitz method was established more than 120 years ago by a German polyglot, Maximilian Delphinius Berlitz, who migrated to America. It is rooted, not in rote, but in the practical modes of instruction. Instead of theory and grammar drills, students are taught context, which is applied in role-playing exercises. Classes then are more like conversations instead of lectures. Students are taught not the formal or classical language, but its practical and idiomatic usage.

"Learning a new language enriches your life because it adds a different dimension to the way you think," Harris said. When you understand language, you understand culture. You realize that different peoples have different ways of assimilating information, different objectives in communicating. This communication goes beyond the scope of language.

For Harris, culture was the deeper motivation for learning languages. "I am interested in communication, in people, in cultures," he said.

He was 12 when he met an Argentine woman who stirred his interest in languages. His family lived in New York then, and they responded to the United Nations' appeal for volunteers to invite UN foreign workers to their homes at Christmas.

Enamored with language

"She was fascinating. It was my first contact with someone from a different culture," recalled Harris, who was then an A student in junior high school, save for Spanish.

Their houseguest taught him to speak Spanish, and his outlook changed. "I've even kept all the notes from my lessons with her," he mentioned.

Enamored with the language that was once his waterloo, Harris spent a year of college in Madrid, where he officially proclaimed his love for Spanish by making it his major. (He was a classical musician, playing all the brass instruments.)

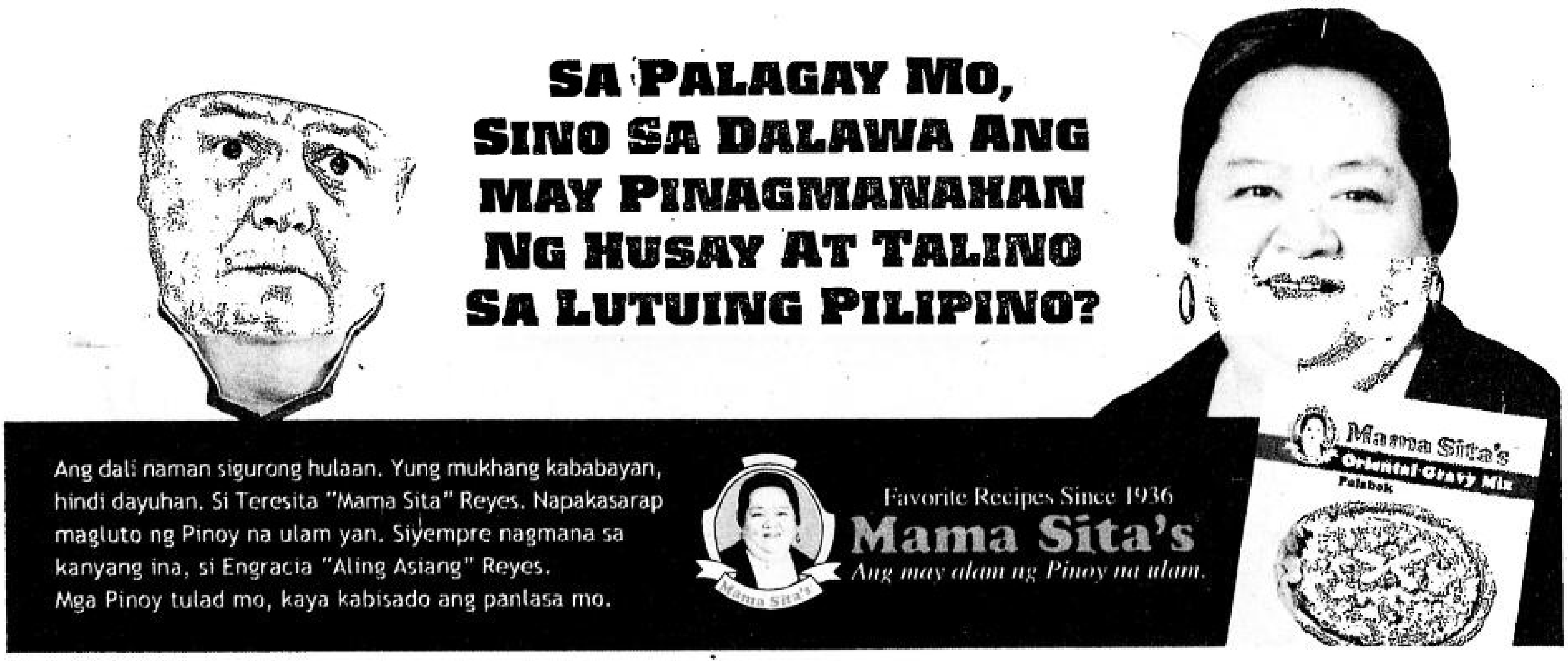
"Until that time, I wasn't a good language student because what we did back then was all memorization. But when I went to Spain, I was excited to be able to talk to people, communicate with them," he said.

Besides Spanish, Harris is also fluent in French. He's earned a master's degree in Latin-American literature and worked toward a doctorate in Romance languages. He taught Spanish language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania before he joined Berlitz in 1978. Having worked in Japan and Korea, he also studied Japanese and Korean at the Berlitz centers there.

"What I'm working on now is my Portuguese," he added.

If he had spent a little more time in the Philippines, he might have picked up a little Filipino as well. At least, he remarked, "I'm delighted that the Philippines is now represented" in the Berlitz network of 350 locations in 50 countries.

Berlitz Language Center is located at Room 209, Peninsula Court Building, 8735 Paseo de Roxas corner Makati Avenue, Makati City, with telefax 817-9319.



SA PALAGAY MO, SINO SA DALAWA ANG MAY PINAGMANAHAN NG HUSAY AT TALINO SA LUTUING PILIPINO?

Ang dali naman sigurong hulaan. Yung mukhang kababayan, hindi dayuhan. Si Teresita "Mama Sita" Reyes. Napakasarap magluto ng Pinoy na ulam yan. Siyempre nagmana sa kanyang ina, si Engracia "Aling Asiang" Reyes. Mga Pinoy tulad mo, kaya kabisado ang panlasa mo.

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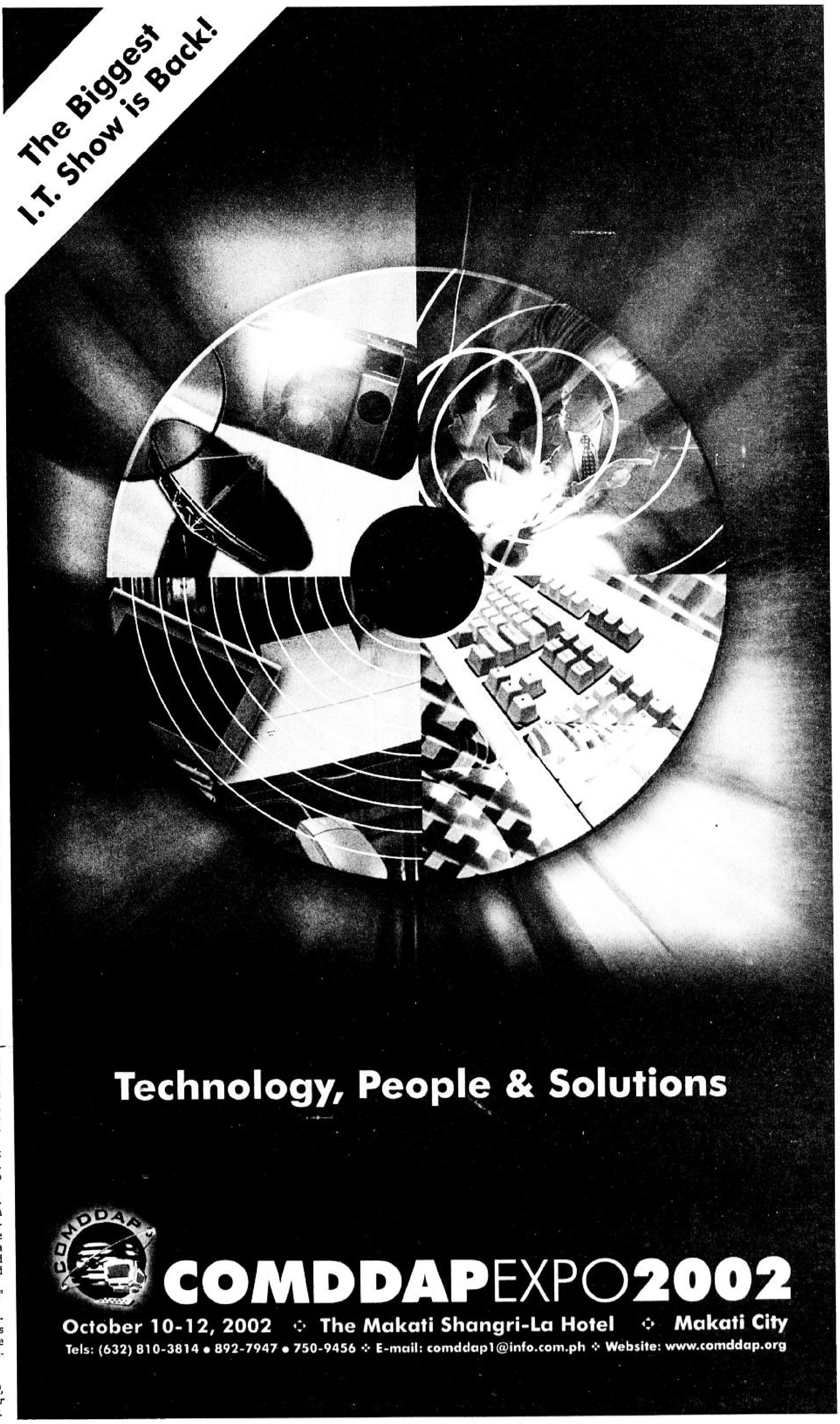

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Tanlayco to be named professor emeritus

MILAGROS Tanlayco, head of the Council of Chairpersons of Departments of English in the Philippines and longtime teacher of English and literature, will be conferred the title professor emeritus by the University of Santo Tomas tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, UST campus, España, Manila.

Leading the conferment rites are UST rector magnificus Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P., secretary-general Fr. Winston Cabading, O.P., and Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Armando de Jesus.

Tanlayco, winner of the Catholic Authors Award, has taught at the Pontifical University for more than 50 years and has mentored at least two generations of writers and teachers. She comes in a long line of well-loved English and literature teachers that includes Paz Latorena, Clemencia Colayco, Erlinda Rustia, Piedad Guinto Rosales and Carolina Garcia.

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PONCIANO Saldaña, Ramoncito Campos, Celso Dayrit and Finnish Ambassador Raimo Anttola

Finns mark golden anniversary of Finland Olympiad

THE EMBASSY of Finland celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Olympic Games of 1952 with a photo exhibit of the event at the ground floor lobby of Glorietta 4, organized by Finnish Ambassador **Raimo Anttola** and the embassy staff. Surviving members of the Philippine basketball team that participated in that Olympiad, like **Ramoncito Campos**, **Paeng Hechanova**, **Tony Genato** and **Ponciano Saldaña** were there to relive old memories and their glory days.

ENRIQUE Beech, Rafael Hechanova and Tony Genato

* * *

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

It was a glittering affair at the presentation of Mexico's Aguila Asteca Medal to **Raul Concepcion** and **Juan Jose Rocha**, who you may know as Johnny, chair and cochair, respectively, of the Philippine-Mexican Business Council. The honorees' elegant spouses, **Menchu** and **Pilina**, beamed proudly during the ceremonies at the residence of Mexican Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard** and Señora **Mariana** on Sept. 6.

The two gentlemen have done much to revive Filipino-Mexican relations, which, despite the close ties centuries ago, have all but disappeared. Seasoned travelers often note that Filipinos suffer no culture shock in Mexico because of our cultural affinity.

Among the guests at the presentation were banker **Ramon Siy**, Don **Paco** and **Vicky Delgado**, lawyer **Ricardo Romulo** with brother **Roberto**, who's probably wishing the Polo Club issue would just go away. Also seen were economist-historian Don **Benito Legarda**, **Miguel Perez Rubio**, popular culture writer **Baby Orosa**, **Francisco** and **Valeria Cue**, **Olivia Romulo**, **Cesar** and **Bambi Buenaventura**, Gen. **Manoling** and **Eloy Yan**, **Arturo**, **Eddie**, **Marisa** and **Annie Rocha**. The superb Mexican buffet was prepared by the Hyatt Hotel, which is turning out to be the place for authentic Mexican food.

* * *

You might find it amusing to learn that the clue "Marcos of the Philippines" in the NY crossword puzzle refers to Mme. **Imelda** and not to **Ferdinand**. Madame Marcos, wearing this perfectly scrumptious looking diamond swan, attended Libya's celebration of the 33rd anniversary of the Al-Fateh Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at the Hotel Inter-Continental hosted by Secretary Dr. **Salem M. Adam**. If for nothing else, Ms Marcos has excellent taste in jewelry, which is more than you can say for a whole roster of people covered by hold orders.

Everybody was busy having photos taken with Madame, former President **Fidel V. Ramos** and Speaker **Joe De Venecia**, not necessarily at the same time. Now what were the latter two discussing in a tête-à-tête at the lobby, with Mr. Ramos' car causing a traffic jam at the driveway?

Next question: Why was a former Libyan ambassador in town recently?

* * *

For all you movie buffs, Cine Europa is still ongoing at the Shangri-La Plaza until Sept. 29 with three film showings everyday. The fourth Israeli Film Festival presented by the Embassy of Israel at Greenbelt 1 ends Sept. 25.

MARJA Korhonen and Freddie Jalasco

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti

ALEJANDRO Roces

PILINA Rocha and Menchu Concepcion

FORMER President Fidel Ramos and Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette

RAUL Concepcion, Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard and Juan Rocha

VICKY and Don Paco Delgado flank Mariana Hubbard.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

THE NIGERIAN Ambassador with wife Grace Inege, Narda Camacho and Dr. Salem Adam

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Mozart and Beethoven opens PPO's new season

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) under Ruggero Barbieri found itself performing two monumental works with contrasting themes—Mozart's "Requiem" (played as a tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York's World Trade Center) and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony ("Ode to Joy") for its season opening, all in one weekend.

For the Mozart opus, the soloists (soprano Aileen Espinosa-Cura, tenor Nolyn Cabahug, mezzo-soprano Agnes Barredo and bass baritone Laurence Jatayna) did fairly well with a very competent chorus, The Adventist Choir, which projected huge massive choral support with sensitivity.

For the Beethoven symphony, the PPO played with conviction the first three movements and also the last, featuring a quartet (the soloists in "Requiem") and chorus (the Unida Ecumenical Chancel Choir, The AUP Ambassadors Chorale Arts Society and the University of the East Chorale).

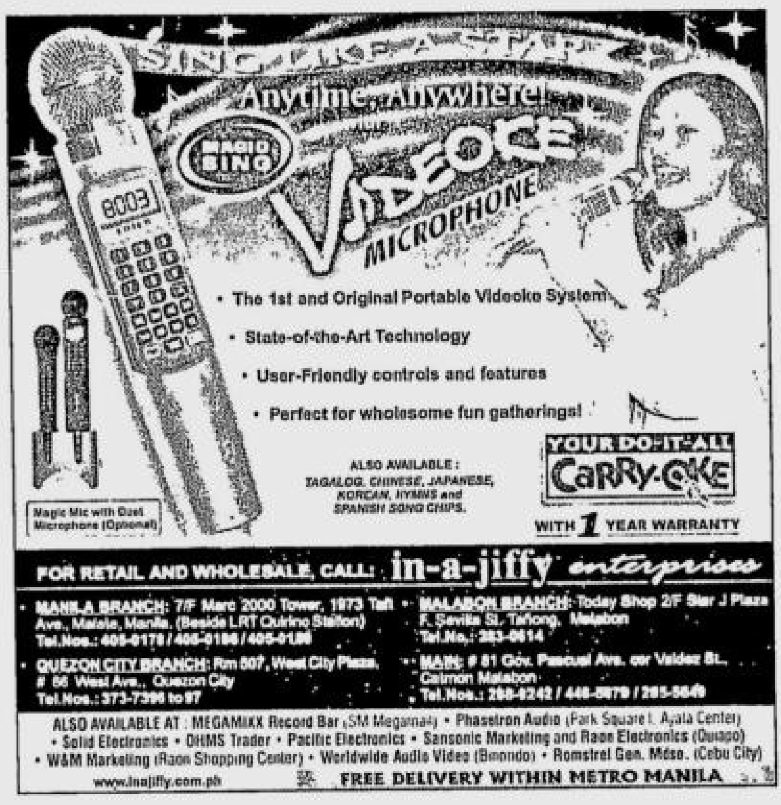
Barbieri managed to lead chorus and soloists on one side and the orchestra on the other with credible, if wayward, tempo. Cabahug and Barredo managed to hold their lines and be at par with the chorus. Cura seemed to have problems with her tessitura—the Beethoven seemed like a gigantic vocal challenge—but she managed as well.

But in both Mozart and Beethoven opuses, Jatayna was a standout. His Mozart line was impeccable and, in his first solo entrance in the Beethoven opus, he demonstrated vocal power and authority with nary an effort. (I was astounded that the new breed of baritones is getting better and better.)

On the whole, Beethoven's Ninth awed (it got a standing ovation afterward), and the Cultural Center of the Philippines had a full

MOZART/ p.F2

> Conductor Barbieri managed to lead chorus and soloists on one side and the orchestra on the other with credible, if wayward, tempo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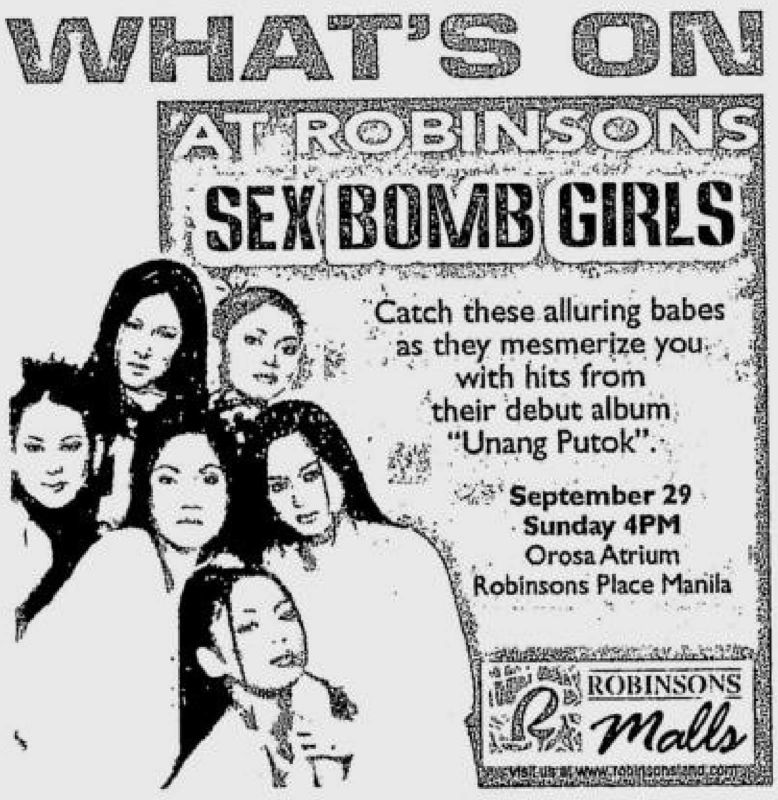
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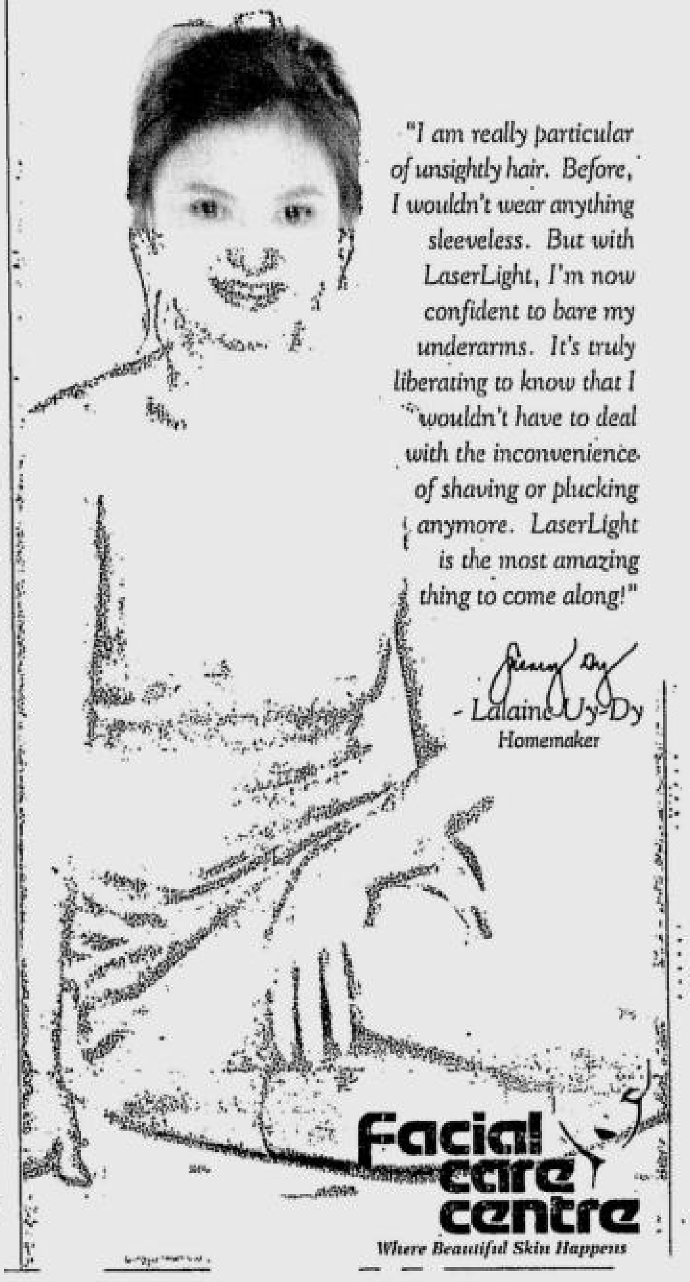

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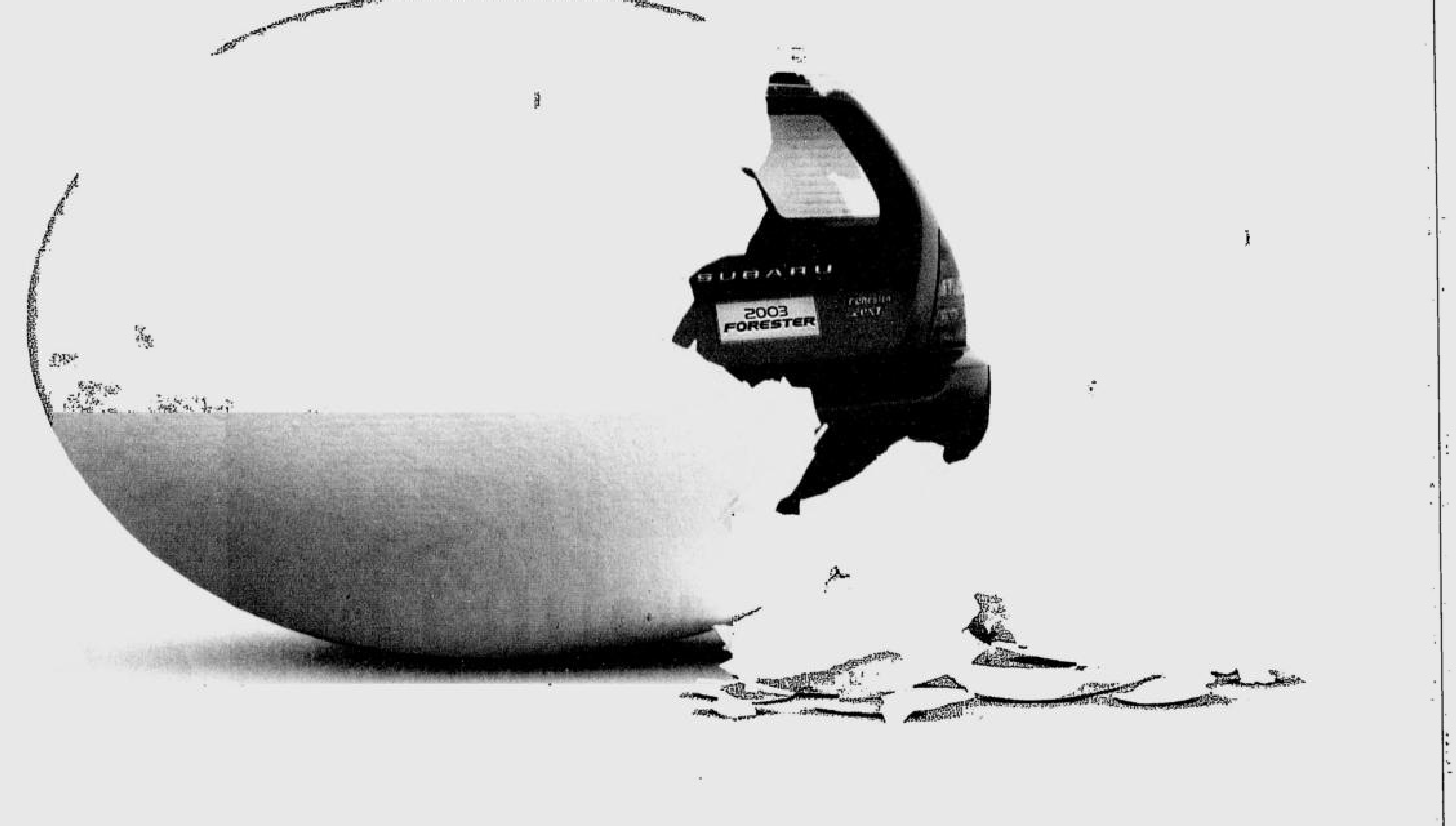

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Mozart and Beethoven opens PPO's new season

BABY Antonio, Nena Casimiro, Belen Hidalgo, Solita Gan-Gatue, FCCP president Chloe Romulo Periquet, Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio, Soil Lavadia, Boysie Villavicensio, Vice Mayor Lorna Bernardo, Nenuca Blardony, Josefina Alvarez and Alice Briones

From page F1

house (but the obvious CCP first-timers applauded every movement and got booed by seasoned concert-goers).

* * *

There is no doubt the ABS-CBN-CCP tie-up, "Maalaala Mo Kaya," was a grand production where, aside from its entertainment components, audiences got a full briefing on the contributions to the country of National Artists Lucio San Pedro, Levi Celerio and Atang de la Rama.

Three conductors alternated—Chino Toledo, Nonoy Diestro and Ruggero Barbieri—in leading the PPO in both solo and ensemble numbers. Chris Millado's direction was superb while Toledo did a good job of unifying the various musical elements associated with the honorees.

But some soloists like Ciara Sotto and Geneva Cruz didn't seem to fit. Vernie Varga and Regine Velasquez, despite their distracting gowns, managed to deliver good interpretations of the numbers they were asked to do.

Why our classical singers were not asked to interpret the classics was a big question mark.

* * *

Two-time Namcya (National Music Competition for Young Artists) winner Oliver Salonga widens his following with every performance (in both formal and casual settings). When he performed during the presentation of lighting equipment to the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), the Japanese donors gave him an ovation.

Last week at the Silangan Gardens in Antipolo, where Cecile Licad received a standing ovation last June, Salonga was loudly cheered by the audience led by INQUIRER columnist Fr. Jerry Orbos. He awed filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya during the First Pasig Summer Music Festival.

Last June, Licad got the chance to hear Salonga. After hearing him play Chopin's Scherzo No. 2, Licad nodded approvingly and even gave Salonga some coaching on how to play the piece.

Salonga will have a solo recital for the first time in Ilagan, Isabela—on Sept. 27 at the St. Ferdinand College and on Sept. 28 at the Mother Madeleine Hall of St. Paul University.

Here and there

TORONTO-BASED Filipino soprano Eleonor Calbes launched recently her CD called "My Journey of Song." It included two songs written by National Artist for Music Lucrecia R. Kasilag. Calbes will be heard in a unique homecoming concert on Nov. 10 at the Philamlife Theater with pianist Najib Ismail and guest tenor Lemuel de la Cruz. For tickets, call 643-7428 or (0918) 737-6901.

* * *

In a previous piece on Filipino conductors who could take the place of outgoing PPO music director Ruggero Barbieri, I overlooked a very active conductor, Chino Toledo, who was at the helm of the Cebu-based Peace Philharmonic Philippines during its last season and was one of the conductors of the hugely successful CCP-ABS-CBN musical extravaganza, "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Aries Caces, a former PHSA scholar who just finished a course in conducting in Vienna, should be included on the list of possible candidates.

I also recall that violinist Gilopez Kabayao led the defunct Manila Symphony Orchestra in one of its last seasons at the Met (Manila Metropolitan Theater) and toured with the orchestra in Iloilo and Bacolod in the mid-'80s. He should be given a conducting slot in a PPO season as well.

Last week, percussionist Arnel Feliciano had a recital as conductor with no less than the San Miguel Philharmonic as his "debut" orchestra at the University of Santo Tomas Auditorium. He should be counted as well.

We have many conductors to choose from but they are largely ignored because of an inherent Filipino "quirk": factionalism (read: if you don't belong to a group with connection, conduct elsewhere).

* * *

The cultural renaissance in Pasig City, which began with the successful First Pasig Summer Music Festival, continues with the performance of the Bayanihan Dance Troupe at the Pasig Sports Center on Sept. 26, courtesy of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines and the city government of Pasig headed by Mayor Soledad C. Eusebio, Vice Mayor Lorna A. Bernardo and Pasig cultural officer Josefina Alvarez.

The award-winning dance group will present original numbers, which won for them the Gold Temple Award and the Absolute Gold Award in the 57th Sagra del Mendorio in Fiore and the 47th International Folklore Festival in Agrigento, Sicily, both in Italy, respectively. Artists of Trumpets Production—Noel Rayos, Jennie Nuyda, Arnold Reyes and Lana Jalosjos—will give special song numbers.

Admission to the Pasig outreach concert is free.

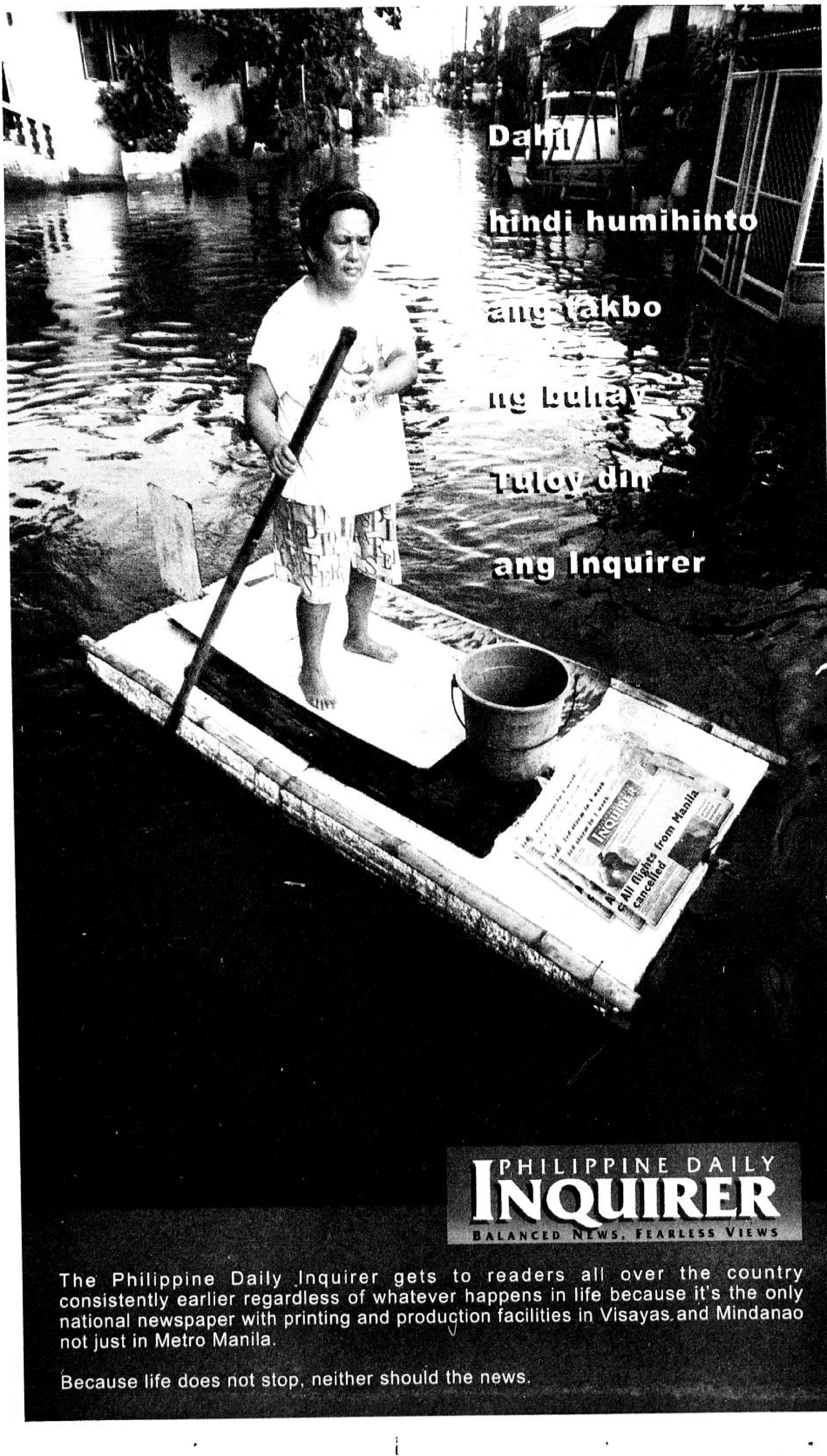
* * *

I take note of tributes to various music personalities last month: the Aug. 1 birthday tribute to soprano and voice teacher Fides Cuyugan Asensio at the Abelardo Hall, with offerings from pupils and friends like Frankie Aseniero, Nomer Son, Karla Gutierrez, Jonathan Badon and Deeda Barretto.

My favorite number was Gougeon's "Alea jacta est!" (The die is cast!) rendered with conviction by baritone Marvin Gayramon. Assisting artists were Dean Mauricia Borromeo, Nita Abrogar-Quinto, Mary Anne Baclao and Benjie Dia.

On Aug. 30, National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag was also given a tribute. Various music schools in Metro Manila participated. Among those who performed and sang Kasilag compositions were pianists Jonathan Coo ("April Morning"), Ma. Regina Montesclaros ("Scherzinio"), Asensio ("Larawan ng Kababaihan") and tenor Ramon Acoymo. Pianists Raul Sunico and Fr. Manuel Maramba played Milhaud's "Scaramouche."

TWO-TIME first prize Namcya winner Oliver Salonga



The Philippine Daily Inquirer gets to readers all over the country consistently earlier regardless of whatever happens in life because it's the only national newspaper with printing and production facilities in Visayas and Mindanao not just in Metro Manila.

Because life does not stop, neither should the news.

‘Laman’ and sexual transactionalism

By Lito B. Zulueta

REVIEW

"LAMAN" by Maryo J. de los Reyes has suffered a beating from reviewers who have earlier found something ennobling in such recent trash as "Jologs" and "Gamitan." The problem perhaps is caused by the merciless evisceration of the movie by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

The original movie was integral. The movie that has seen the light of day is gutted and unsteady. Despite the disembowelment, "Laman" in theaters still shows artistic coherence and force of vision. It has flashes of its original brilliance. Bowels and all, it is the best work of neo-realist cinema this year. In fact, I think it's Maryo J. De los Reyes' best movie.

Dodong (Yul Servo) and Lolita (Lolita de Leon) leave the poverty of the province and try to build a new life in the city with the help of Omar (Albert Martinez), Dodong's childhood friend. Omar improves his personal finances with discreet and indiscreet dalliances with his boss, Nipsie (Elizabeth Oropesa), an ageing former prostitute who runs a number of businesses owned by her elderly Japanese lover. Omar soon finds diversion from the usual fare in Lolita, who herself has become fascinated with Omar's free-wheeling sex life, a far cry from the predictability of her husband's sexual mechanics. Soon, she is ready to leave Dodong, and Omar is ready to leave Nipsie. But Nipsie, who is impressed by Dodong's innocence and devotion, makes a bargain that Omar can't refuse. In the process, she also tries to save the couple and spare them from further damnation. Omar submits, but it is Lolita who will prove relentless and unbending.

The fall

It is easy to see the movie as a parable of original innocence corrupted. But what is noteworthy is how De los Reyes tracks the fall. In his intense camera, the bucolic purity is reflected in the nearly bland but upbeat faces of Servo and De Leon, eager beavers for the bright lights of the city. They seem to derive satisfaction from the grime and racket of the city. When Lolita cleans up Omar's pigsty of a place, she does not seem repulsed. Her passivity prefigures her submission to and even embrace of the devil.

Squeezed in the cramped spaces of the congested city, like rats trapped in a maze, the characters feed on one another. They eavesdrop on each other's sexual activities, achieving satiation vicariously or brutishly. They negotiate on terms set by sex and its rigors. Sex becomes both an escape from unforgiving reality and an entry into the new reality; in here, their egos are refurbished and rehabilitated. Sex becomes their ticket to an improved reality. It is a full reality in numerical terms, if only because sex makes reality quantifiable.

So what is the movie all about? It is about the transactionalism engendered by poverty. Save for Dodong, all the characters navigate and negotiate through sex. Sexual bondage binds them together. Lolita is awakened to the life of the senses and pursues the logic of sexual exchange by, at first, offering co-habitation with both men, and later, after finding out that Dodong is unwilling to go further with the unorthodox arrangement, leaving him for Omar. Depending on the lure of money and self-interest, Omar gives or withholds sex and companionship. Nipsie does not deny she is tainted by the commercialism of sex, but drawing from the hidden wellsprings of her humanity, draws a pact with the devil in order to uphold the good.

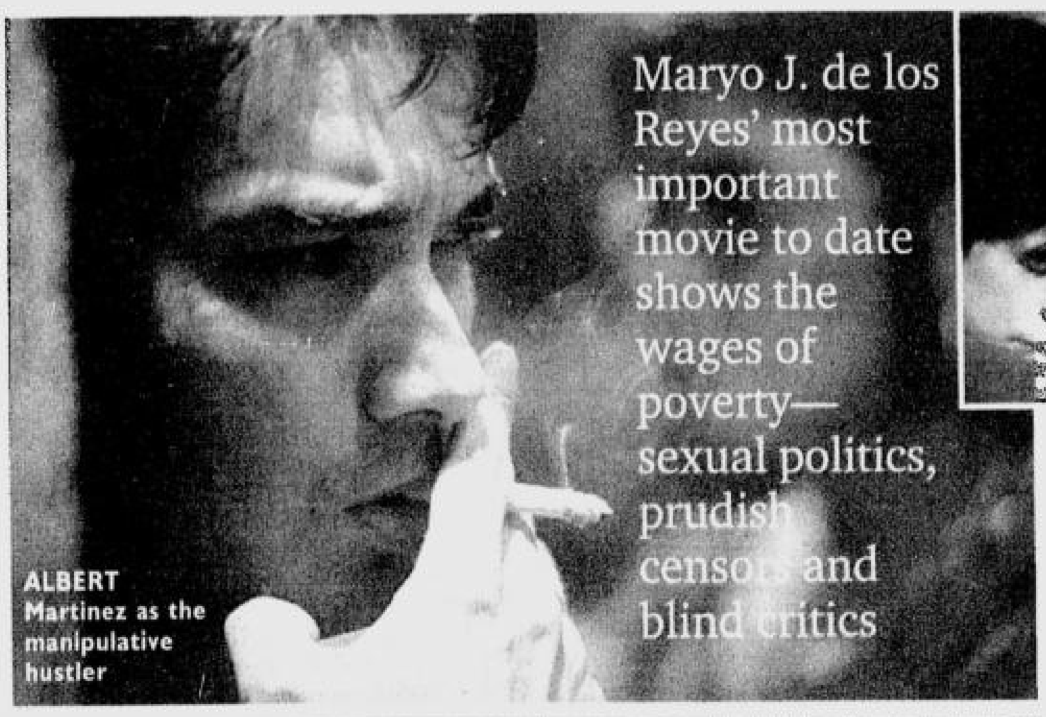
The best character study is Lolita. Played by De Leon, she is the perfect *provinciana*, raw and alluring. But her corruption is really a function of her naïveté and charm. She is perhaps the most damning feminist portrayal of recent memory. She comes to herself in true feminist fashion by the rich discovery of her sexual power, and it is the same discovery that she employs to manipulate her husband. Her character is very troubling if one considers that recent portrayals of Filipino women characters by foreigners have not been exactly kind, such as the striptease-prone Pinay fishwife in the Australian outlands in "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" and the mail-order bride who leaves her American husband in "Coming Home."

Naturalism

Much has been made of the wobbliness of the camera and the grainyness of the film. In fact, they are part of the documentary feel that De los Reyes is trying to achieve. The climax is shot by a handheld camera that settles for medium and long shots, that pans and tilts depending on the action. There is nothing new here. Television crime shows like "NYPD Blue" use the technique to tired lengths. In the case of "Laman," it enhances the urgency and the naturalism while heightening the dramatic buildup.

What may have destroyed "Laman" is the X-rating twice imposed by the MTRCB on the original version, which led the filmmakers to cannibalize the movie and present a version that was more palatable to the censors. The original version, for all its sex scenes, was quite sanitary, save for a scene of frontal nudity lasting no more than five seconds. But the MTRCB, according to the filmmakers, wanted 30 pecent of the movie changed. Apparently, the censors saw pubic hair in every scene.

MTRCB chief Marilen Dinglasan has made it appear that she is a stickler for rules, and these rules have run against "Laman's" favor. She should be more forthright than that. As chair, she chooses who will sit in the review board. That is why a movie that got a 2-1 in favor of an X-rating in the first review got a 5-all confirmation of the X-rating in the second review. You would have expected that the second review would be a close call. But it was a no-fight. The outcome was predictable—the Delphic Oracle in Dinglasan had known it. As chair, she chose all five Visigoths to sit in the second review so that she could stack all of the odds against "Laman." By making creatures from the antediluvian age sit in the second board, she sealed "Laman's" fate.



Maryo J. de los Reyes' most important movie to date shows the wages of poverty—sexual politics, prudish censors and blind critics

ALBERT Martinez as the manipulative hustler

YUL Servo as the innocent Dodong

ELIZABETH Oropesa (with Servo) is the ex-prostitute with the heart of gold

TROUBLING WOMAN CHARACTER. Lolita de Leon as Lolita

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By Abe Florendo
Contributor

CAMILLE Lopez takes it all in before the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra concert, where she was featured soloist, at the Spanish Hall of the Prague Palace complex in the Czech Republic.

ON THE SAME day when President Macapagal-Arroyo was decrying the Cultural Center of the Philippines as "elitist," and describing its structure, with a mocking gesture of her arms raised loftily upward, as "so architecture!", I was having coffee with the soprano Camille Lopez at a Malate Café.

When the young and driven Camille Lopez heard about the President's speech at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) summit from a CCP official who joined us at the café right after the President left her audience dumbstruck—among them National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag and CCP president Nestor Jardin—Camille was truly aghast.

An artist who has spent most of her life perfecting her art as an opera singer, she probably suddenly felt irrelevant, even unwanted, in the President's cultural program. A singer who sings Mozart, Rossini and Wagner could not ever hope to be *masa*; why, the *masa* could not even pronounce the composers' names correctly to save their lives.

Camille Lopez happens to be one of a growing number of talented Filipino artists who are training abroad, at great cost financially and emotionally, and hoping to realize personal fulfillment as well as the honor of doing their country proud. Statements like those coming from the President are not going to inspire and encourage them at all. Maybe it was an inopportune time for Camille to be in Manila, but she couldn't help it.

Powerful renditions

She had been invited to be soloist at the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) concert at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. She was flown from Vienna, where she is based, for the one-night fund-raiser that the packed audience in the parish church would remember for the memorable repertoire of the PPO as much for the touching and powerful renditions of Camille of operatic arias and Filipino kundimans, especially Nicanor Abelardo's "Mutya ng Pasig." Camille might have been born to sing this song.

"Mutya ng Pasig" was her most applauded song when she was soloist for the PPO's European tour in late 2001, which went from Spain to Austria to the Czech Republic. The orchestra was an absolute hit; Camille likewise captivated her audiences who gave her standing ovations and the critics who spoke glowingly of her, with her renditions of Filipino *zarzuela* solos and duets (with tenor Abdul Candao, also based in Vienna) and haunting *kundiman*.

A music composer and scholar in Klagenfurt, Austria, said Camille's Philippine *zarzuela* solos had given her a "marvelous" insight into the culturally "ethnic" adaptations of European theatrical musicals.

Without meaning to, Camille became the star of the PPO's European tour. She shared the limelight with tenor Candao, and, in separate performances, with guest pianists Nena del Rosario and Aries Caces. But it was Camille who would be singled out not only for her powerful, darkly shaded voice, but also for her big presence on stage. Camille likes to joke about filling a small stage with not much effort.

Big voice

Camille's voice is between a mezzo with good high notes and a soprano with very good low notes. When she was younger, and a scholar at the HongKong Academy, she was a lyric soprano and essayed Mimi in "La Boheme."

"I was actually convincing as Mimi," she says now, laughing.

As she grew older and more mature during her stay in Vienna, her voice became bigger and more complex and with a darker quality. Although her best ranges are the middle ones, she has also been singing arias for high mezzo, almost dramatic, soprano.

Her Croatian teacher in Vienna has advised her "not to be afraid if you have a big voice," Camille says, explaining that a big voice ages and fades faster than an agile light voice.

"You can scream it out now, but the full repercussions will hit you when you're older. My game now is to wait until I feel I'm really mature enough to sing the roles I like and that fit my temperament as well."

She cites Eboli in "Don Carlo," Santuzza in "Cavalleria," and La Gioconda.

"I'm not naturally equipped for Mozart. I would be like a truck going uphill in full throttle. Mozart is internalizing, not a lashing out. It's intimate, almost meditative, not theatrical. For a singer it's like a high-wire act. My voice is more sensuous, more earthbound, inexorably drawn by gravity." She laughs.

You can understand this when you hear her sing "Mutya ng Pasig": she becomes the brown goddess herself, grandly ominous and mortal, deeply wounded by longing for a lost love.

WITH PIANIST Nena del Rosario (seated) backstage at the Spanish Hall

> Vienna-based Camille Lopez belongs to a growing number of Filipino musicians who pursue their dreams abroad at great financial and emotional costs

Placido's girlfriend

Camille grew up farther uptown from the banks of Pasig River, in Quezon City. Her father, a banker, and her mother, a doctor, are both musically inclined. The father is an opera buff who's turning into a techno-geek only so he can listen to and watch opera recordings in the clearest way possible. The mother is a dedicated pianist who, during the time of Conchita Sunico, was choral director at the Metropolitan Theater. The couple were members of the Opera Chorus of the Philippines.

Camille remembers that, when she was in third grade, the walls of her home reverberating with the beautiful sounds of the greats of opera, she fantasized being the girlfriend of Placido Domingo.

At first she thought she wanted to be a pianist like her mother, but after a year or two of study, she realized she did not have the patience to sit at the piano for 10 hours every day. Moreover, she has stubby fingers. But she loved to sing, like the sopranos in her father's LPs and tapes, especially like Beverly Sills who came to Manila for a concert in the late '60s. Unfortunately, Camille was too young then to attend Sills' concert.

Her preference for singing over piano playing was further bolstered during her grade school years, when the legendary maestra Isang Tapales conducted her voice lessons in the Lopezes' house. Everybody, but everybody who would count to something later, took lessons with Isang Tapales. When she was 13, she was pushed by her mother toward the great maestra, who, after running the child through the arpeggio, said with a sigh, "She has absolutely nothing." But, "After studying with me, she will make a beautiful 'Madame Butterfly.'"

Backstage legend

Fides Cuyugan Asensio saw the same potential, or she was just being sentimental. Asensio's passion for opera is a backstage legend: she took on Camille, then enrolled at the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music, on the strength of Camille's mother's well-placed "Camille loves opera," whereupon Asensio said, "Send her to me."

Camille stayed with Asensio until 1995. During this period, Camille and her sisters Myra (now a statistician), an alto, and Gracia (an anesthesiologist), a soprano, formed a choral group named The Seedlings, which sang regularly at Sunday Masses at the Edsa Shrine (for other than their religious ministry, they called themselves Intermezzo).

But never forgetting her bigger goal, she entered the Rossini Competition in Tokyo and the Rosa Ponsell Competition in New York, which her best friend and UP contemporary Margarita Gomez won.

In 1995, Camille earned a scholarship to the HongKong Academy.

"Everything's first world; the school was like a mall, with its own escalators, a gigantic theater for big productions, a smaller, more intimate theater, its own school orchestra, and courses in dance, music and theater arts. It's amazing. When, for instance, we presented Offenbach's 'La Vie Parisienne,' the academy took care of everything, from singers to stage hands. Expenses for costumes and sets were taken care of by sponsors and ticket sales. We could run up costs with no care at all. For instance, my voluminous petticoat was made entirely of Thai silk!"

It was working with Westerners, however, that was "scary and stressful." It was here she understood the importance of discipline, focus, technique, and how not to be too sensitive and offended by open and direct criticisms. Among her Filipino colleagues then were Andrew Fernando, Najib Ismail and Pablo Molina.

Organic training

In 1996, she went to Vienna for the Belvedere International Opera Competition. She didn't make it, but she stayed on in this beautiful city. She enrolled at Vienna's Conservatorium, where she studied until 2001. It was the right time for her, as her voice was maturing and becoming more complex.

It was right for her in other ways: "In Europe, when you sing, it's more than vocalizing. You go through a training that is more holistic—how you make it more natural, how to make use of your whole body. Unlike in the United States, where the training is more scientific—every nut and bolt must be put into place—in Europe it's more organic. It's more immersion and absorption. Just going to the opera will teach you a lot about projection, deportment, how you approach your role.

"Also, in the US, everything is taught, including the nuances of the language—it's called coaching. In Europe, there's coaching but not as nitpicky as in the US."

Which does she prefer—the US or the European training? "I like a combination of both," she replies. "Coaching is not something I'd like to be subjected to every day. You get loaded down with details. But now that I'm acquainted with my instrument, when a teacher tells me it's technical, I know what she means."

Held together

It's very characteristic of Camille, as a person, to feel strongly about certain things. "In Europe," she observes, "half of your job is done if you're aggressive."

But she isn't assertive or aggressive; she's too...Mimi? And too Filipina, to make it worse. Which is why, recently, she has been auditioning for a manager (in those parts, you just don't hire one, you audition for them).

In the meantime, to support herself, she's working as consular assistant at the Philippine Embassy in Vienna, accepting applications and processing documents on her desk, while singing Santuzza inside her head.

Vienna, for her, is where it's at. "Even Europeans will tell you that you can't find a music scene anywhere else quite like Vienna. Austria is small—a population of eight million—and it's held together by music. And it's subsidized by the government, so that the people can afford the tickets, especially for world-class artists."

To be sure, the President of Austria does not make disparaging remarks about pantheons to the arts in the cities and cultural fares that go over the heads, or brows, of the people.

If one must comment on President Arroyo's speech at the NCCA summit, it would be to say that building little theaters throughout the country, such as she had suggested, would work only if the people understood, at this point in time, that it's not pop singer Jolina Magdangal but a classical artist like Camille Lopez, accompanied by a philharmonic orchestra, starring on the bill.

WITH THE AUTHOR (center) and Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco at the Prague residence of Carmelita R. Salas, the Philippine ambassador to the Czech Republic

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Sunico joins 'Quadrille'

THE MANILA Chamber Orchestra Arts Festival 2002 presents its third concert, "Quadrille," on Sept. 28, 7 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, corner Makati Avenue and H.V. de la Costa Street. It is presented by the MCO Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank and supported by 98.7 dzFE and Figaro Coffee Co.

"Quadrille" is an ensemble concert featuring well-known veteran pianists Mary Ann Rivas Armovit, Della Gamboa Besa, Anamaria Gregorio de Guzman and Raul M. Sunico. Armovit, Gamboa Besa and De Guzman have been playing with each other since the mid '70s.

Sunico has won various international competitions and has been successful in different local musical projects. He is the new dean of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music.

The ensemble's repertoire will include classical and Philippine music. Beneficiary of the concert is the developing program of MCO for young artists, the Young Artists Exchange Program.

Regular ticket prices for "Quadrille" are at P300. A 50-percent discount is offered to students, 20 percent for senior citizens, and special rates for block-ticket buyers.

Call the MCOF Secretariat at 818-1403, 813-2849 and 840-7000 local 2630/2258.

The MCO Arts Festival 2002 will feature other talented artists, such as the Metro Manila Community Orchestra, the Clarion Chamber Ensemble and the Association of Ballet Academies of the Philippines, in "Swan Lake."

THE SANGKAP Husay, an out-of-school youth group in Solano, Cayagay, is sponsoring today "Kalikasang Yaman," a concert of the well-loved folk group Asin, 7 p.m., at the People Gym in Tuguegarao City.

INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

Microsoft softens stand on open source software

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE RECENT word war between the local open source community and Microsoft has simmered down as Microsoft officials said that there is no war between the software firm and local advocates of "free" software.

"We want to encourage the public to be aware of the issues (involving open source and commercial software). But we want to take a sober look at the issues," Mark Yambot, marketing director of Microsoft Philippines, said in an interview. "We know that we've been singled out, and this is not productive because we're in this industry together where we all mean well."

Last week, a newly organized group pushing open source software in the Philippines has practically declared war against Microsoft after the Redmond-based software company said that open source software might stifle the growth of the local software community.

Advocating for open source software, Open Minds, as the group is called, lashed back at Microsoft, saying that commercial software is the one holding back progress of the local software development industry.

On Wednesday, however, Microsoft officials have somehow softened their stand on open source, as they acknowledged that open source software—which is part of the so-called software ecosystem—does offer benefits like community building, customer feedback and source code sharing.

"We don't think we're in a battle or a war. What we're trying to say (during a briefing in Manila) was the value of commercial software. We believe that open source, just like commercial software, has a role in the whole software ecosystem," said Mae Rivera, Microsoft Philippines marketing communications manager.

For his part, Yambot stressed that Microsoft is "not forcing anyone" to use Microsoft software.

"That is why our software is for sale. There have always been alternatives, and there have been free software. We're not against choice," the executive said.

He added: "We just want to avoid this sort of 'religious' battles where nobody wins."

Open Minds is composed of existing open source groups in the Philippines that have recently emerged as the local software developer community began seeking alternatives to proprietary software. Members include the Philippine Linux User's Group (around 800 registered users in its mailing list), Cebu GNU/Linux Users Group, Bluepoint Institute of Higher Technology, QLinux Solutions Inc., QSR Inc., Distributed Development Network, the IT International Group, and the Filipinos for Reform and Empowerment through Education, Entrepreneurship and Electronic Media.

Apart from advocating use of open source software in the country, the group intends to lobby for policies and laws that will support the open source movement.

Lexmark warns consumers on recycled ink cartridges

By Joel D. Pinaroc

CONSUMERS who may want to save money by buying recycled printer ink cartridges could lose more in the long run, according to printing company Lexmark International Inc.

Executives of the US-based company, which recently opened a large research and development facility in Cebu City said that the practice of some small local companies in buying empty cartridges and "refilling" them to be sold to consumer at a lower price may compromise printing quality.

"Empty inkjet cartridges are not designed to be reused. Problems such as low printing quality could arise if consumers use these recycled cartridges," said John Zbrozek, vice president of R&D at Lexmark.

The practice of small local companies in buying empty cartridges and refilling them to be sold at a lower price will also affect printing companies, business-wise.

"Aside from quality issues, there is a business effect in this practice since every reused cartridge that is sold takes away a sale from the printing company," Zbrozek said.

In Manila, sidewalk vendors are often seen offering to buy empty cartridges apparently to refill these cartridges and sell them later.

Zbrozek also stressed that consumers should return empty cartridges to the companies they bought them from, for proper disposal, instead of selling them.

The executive said Lexmark, which is also an active player in the local inkjet market, is encouraging consumers to return empty cartridges. Zbrozek said the company has ways to dispose of the empty cartridges in an environment-friendly way.

Zbrozek however admitted that this recycling and reselling of empty cartridges is a "part" of the printing marketplace that printing companies would have to deal with.

"This reselling of inkjet cartridges is part of the marketplace. As far as Lexmark is concerned, we are not likely to do anything about it," Zbrozek said.

"We are advising consumers that if they like to keep their carpets and hands clean, they should only use new inkjet cartridges and not recycled ones," he added.

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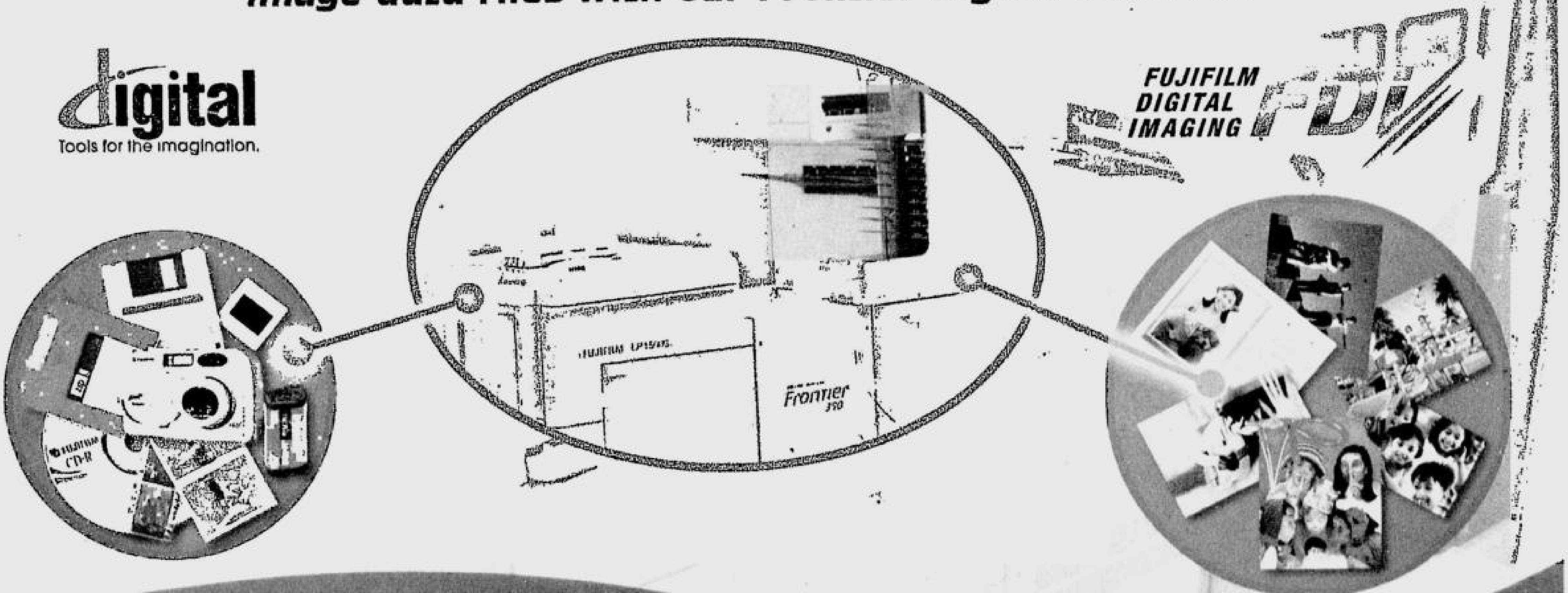

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Canon invests heavily in China, but is Chinese society ready?

By Leo Magno

WITH A POPULATION of nearly 1.3 billion and one of the lowest labor costs in the world, the tech industry is making a beeline for China as companies are pouring investments into the country because of both the potential market and lower production costs.

Japan's Canon is not an exception, as it digs into China with even more investments as the company moves from conventional analog imaging products manufacture into the digital imaging space.

A sign of this movement by Canon is the staging of the annual Canon Expo and national distributors and dealers conference in Beijing, the first time in the company's 65-year history that the event was held outside of Tokyo.

Canon's business activities in China date back to 1979, a year after the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China was signed. The same year, China laid down its open-door policy and entered a new economic phase. Its GDP growth has grown remarkably since then, and today while the rest of the world is stuck in a recession, China continues to achieve a GDP growth of at least 7 percent. China also hosted the Asia Pacific Economic Conference in Shanghai and, last year, the country joined the World Trade Organization.

Which is why Canon has poured over $700 million in China, and it now has 11 production facilities plus three more by the end of the year, which would boost Canon's employee count in China to 13,000.

The excitement over China is not without basis. It is raking in spectacular numbers in Asia and in the world market.

For example, China—including Hong Kong and Taiwan—is projected to claim the lion's share of the system management software market in Asia. This projection is seen to happen in as short as two years as the country leaps from 28 percent of Asia's system management spending to 43 percent by 2006, according to the International Data Corp. In dollar terms, the market would jump from $70 million to $298.4 million.

Similar numbers are recorded for China's telecommunications industry. The MRT Cellular Team of Europe estimates that by the end of 2002, China will account for 172 million of Asia's total cellular mobile phone subscriber base of 373 million, followed by Japan's 78 million and the rest of Asia at 123 million subscribers.

China is no doubt opening its doors to the global market, something new for a country that has been a staunch believer in communism and an enemy of capitalism. As a member of the WTO, tariffs in China will be lowered and import sales by foreign companies will be made possible in stages. In Shanghai, the draft rules allowing foreign firms to buy into mainland-listed firms have been readied.

> China is no doubt opening its doors to the global market, something new for a country that has been a staunch believer in communism and an enemy of capitalism

Even once-sacred grounds in China have not been spared by the arrival of foreign markets. In the Forbidden City, one can now find a Starbucks after the third of the palace's nine gates.

The Chinese economy is indeed being deregulated, but with the advent of digital technologies, the closed society of China is struggling with the slew of information its people are receiving in the information technology age. For example, Internet search engines Google and AltaVista claim to have been blocked by China in the government's effort to filter "anti-state" information being read by Chinese society. Two weeks ago, a Chinese activist was arrested by the Ministry of State and Security, China's intelligence agency. His crime: He posted a government document to two online chat groups, and so he was charged with "revealing state secrets."

Despite the onslaught of technology in China, the examples above highlight the failure of the country's rigid government structure with an increasingly diverse and computer-connected civil society.

This, however, does not hinder Canon from moving forth into China. Canon president Fujio Mitarai believes that information is moving from text-based information to digital and visual communications. This belief has led Canon to invest $1.7 billion in digital imaging products such as digital cameras, printers and imaging solutions. Canon even plans to give each digital camera or printer its own Internet address, making people more connected visually.

"The world is facing a new, networked digital lifestyle, and we will ensure that Canon remains ahead of the game," said Mitarai.

With China's rigid government structure and a society contained due to paranoia when it comes to digital information, how would Canon concretize Mitarai's digital, networked vision in that country?

"Our business performance is the successful result of our employees in Japan and China working together to overcome such challenges as differences in culture and customs, supported by a relationship based on trust," said Mitarai.

In the end, it all boils down to a question of whether the opportunity for high-tech products such as Canon's is one driven by the market or one driven by technology. And, at the rate the technological juggernaut is invading societies, the Chinese government will be hard-pressed to get digital information away from the people.

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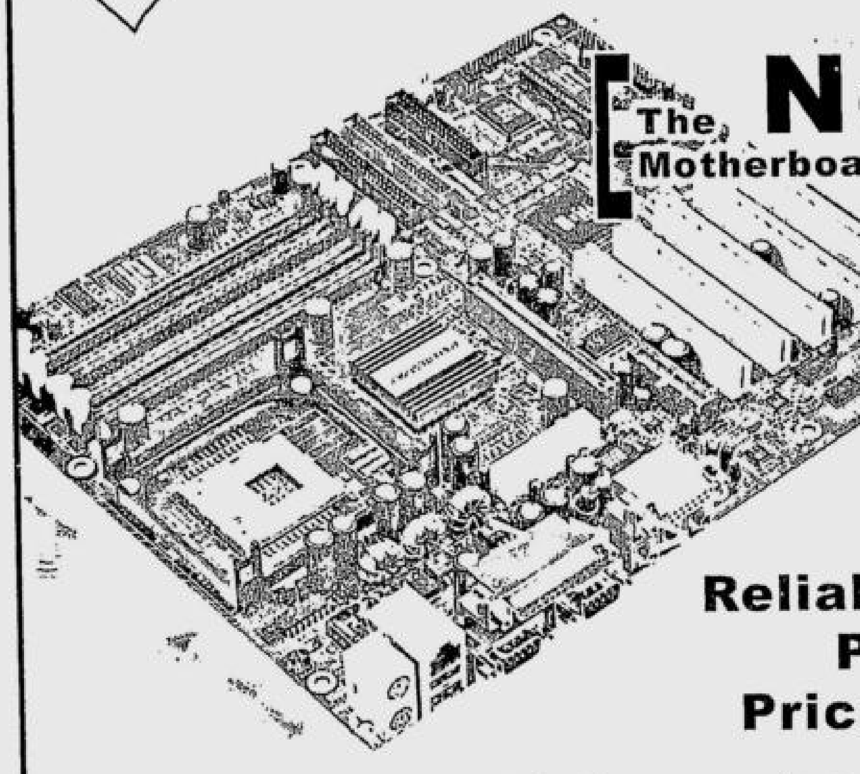

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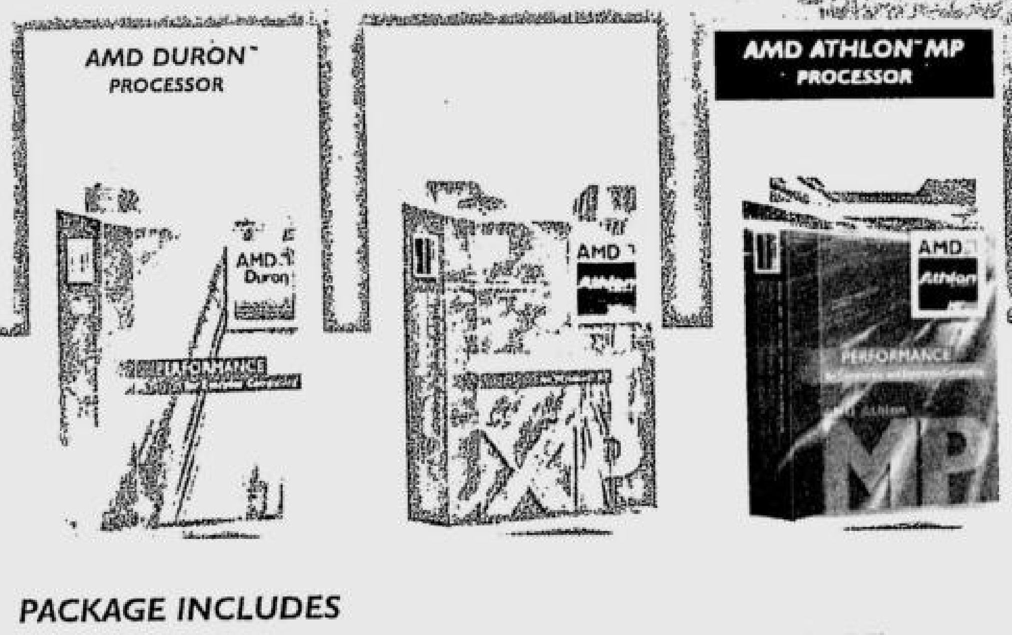

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AMD Processors Discover Performance. Discover AMD.

HP unveils largest portfolio of printing, imaging products

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE NEW Hewlett Packard recently introduced a slew of printing and imaging products in the Philippines, which is a result of the company's $1.2-billion global investment and three years of research and development.

The new product portfolio is just part of more than 30 products unveiled in Asia Pacific, HP officials said.

From three-in-one printers that combine a scanner, copier and printer, to the color inkjet printers that produce pictures that equals the quality of real photo prints, HP showed why it has become the leader in this business where the needs have changed.

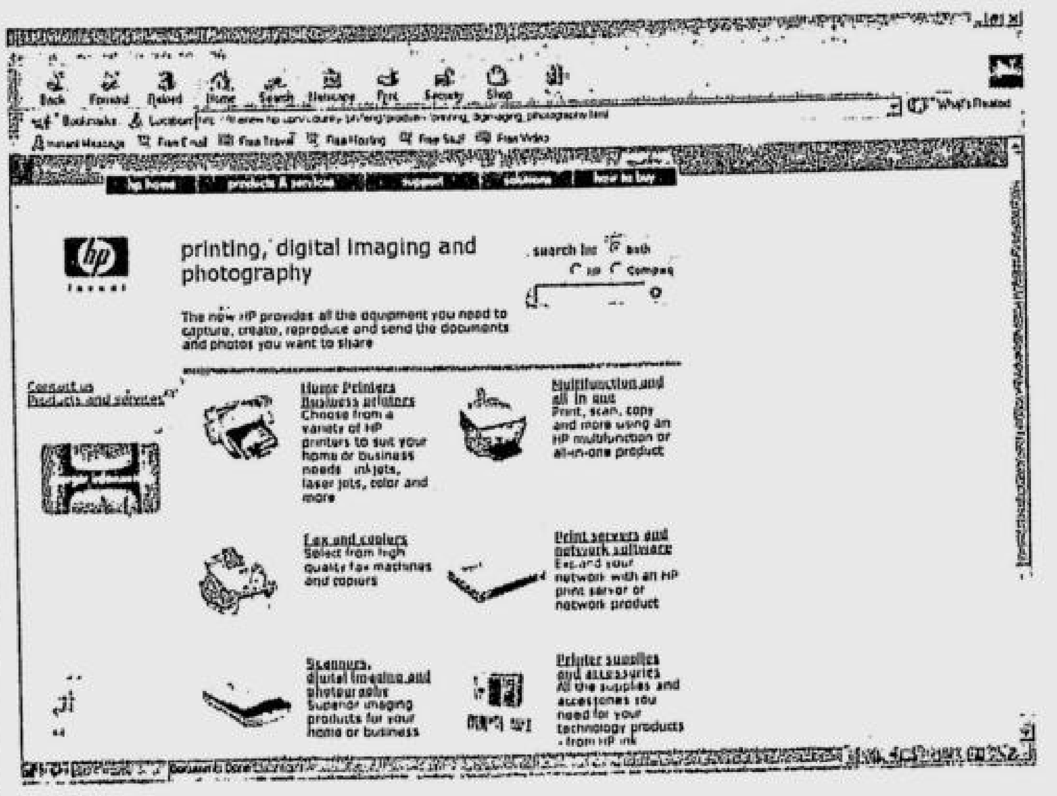
"With the convergence of digital imaging technologies, there is an increasing demand from consumers to move the sharing and viewing of images beyond prints and on the PC," Maricar Gonzales, HP Philippines country category manager for consumer peripherals, said.

Designed to suit the demands of the wired consumers, HP is now offering more affordable products for home and small office users.

"What you will see from HP are products that will drive digital imaging mainstream. We have completely redesigned our products and supplies to meet the needs of consumers as digital imaging increasingly becomes part and parcel of how we live and work," Gonzales said.

Other products launched included the new HP scanners, the Scanjet 2300c and 3500c that enables users to create slide shows and burn digital images on CDs for viewing on a PC, VCD, or DVD players. HP also introduced the HP PSC 2110 model that is a scanner, copier and printer all-in-one. The other high-end color printer, the HP Photosmart 7550, comes with a 1.8-inch LCD display that will let users preview, edit and enhance photos without hooking up the printer to a PC. One can also print directly from their digital cameras by sticking the camera's memory card into the printer's memory slot.

In the coming months, the company will roll out three more scanners and mobile printers in the local market.



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Intel shows compelling features in 'Madison'

By Gerry Plaza

INTEL last week presented what it calls its high-tech version of "heavy metal": ten tons of Itanium 2-based servers "hot-swapped" to its next-generation 64-bit chips due to be out early next year, the Itanium 3, codenamed "Madison."

In the week-long Intel Developer Forum in San Jose, California, Intel President Paul Otellini demonstrated how a partitioned Itanium 2-based Unisys ES7000 could be upgraded to a faster configuration, boasting of 6Mb of L3 cache, and clock speeds beyond the 2GHz barrier, while on continued operation. On stage, Otellini successfully pulled out a four-processor Itanium 2 node and replaced it with a 4-way Madison node without shutting down the systems. The presentation revealed an instantaneous performance boost, without causing any problems to the configuration.

The forum became the venue for the very first public demonstration of the new Madison chips, elevating the importance for the entire Itanium line, which has been reportedly out of sync in terms of actual sales. Itanium 1 and 2 have since underperformed in the 64-bit market with sales missing expectations. The chip leader however remains unfazed and would bet all its marbles and silicon in two chips further up the roadmap—one is Madison and the other "Montecito," which will feature a complete overhaul of the processor circuitry.

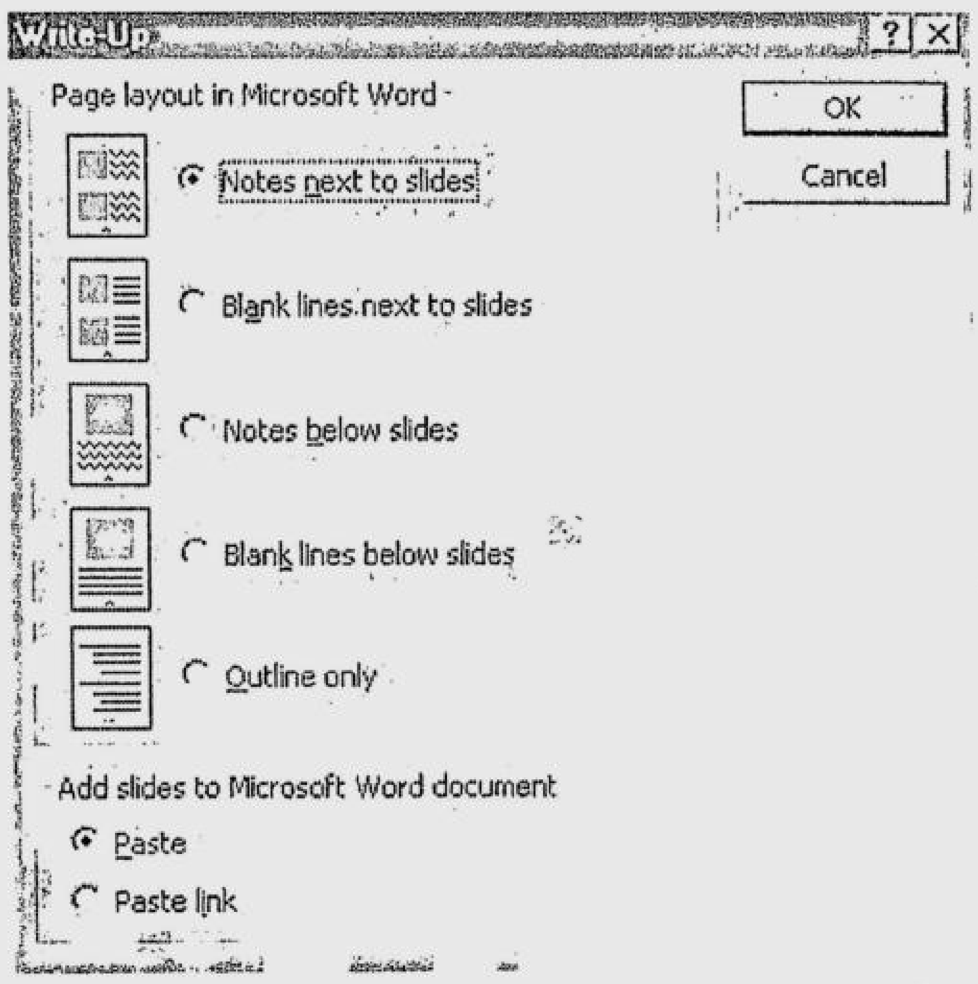
The signs seem encouraging. A $4.6-million NEC machine with 32 Madison processors provided the needed springboard for Microsoft to now become a serious player in the high-end server market. The NEC server running Microsoft's upcoming Windows.Net Datacenter Server scored high marks in a recent Transaction Performance Council (TPC-C) benchmark speed test, sending the message to the industry that it has arrived in the plain of the Unix giants. The successful TPC-C showing of the NEC TX7/i9510 machine also highlights the power of Madison and its potential in running mission-critical applications, such as bank account management and inventory tracking.

Itanium is Intel's bet for dominance in the high-end field, clearly dominated by the traditional leaders IBM, Sun Microsystems and Hewlett-Packard—all offering computers that run mission-critical transactions with their own processors. IBM and HP have largely used Intel chips but only for their low-end machines—a market, in turn, dominated by Intel.

With Otellini's demo, we can see Madison's key and compelling feature: "pin-compatibility" (or fast, trouble-free upgrades) with Itanium 2 chips. This means Itanium-based server manufacturers need not start server designs from scratch when new 64-bit processors from Intel are shipped.

Intel announced successful implementations of several operating systems on the Madison processor and the actual shipment of the product—due early 2003—is right on schedule.

Should Madison remain on track and meet expectations, Intel would have found its saving grace in the high-end arena after lackluster sales of its previous Itanium chips. While Madison still has to face the "real world," its promise remains excitingly compelling: offer a cheaper alternative to current solutions and change the landscape of the 64-bit server marketplace.



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Transporting MS Powerpoint to MS Word

POWERTIPS

By Jerry Liao

IF you need to transfer or have a copy of your Powerpoint presentation to MS Word, here's an easier way to do it :

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BPI taps Oracle for online banking

BANK of the Philippine Islands, one of the oldest, largest domestic banks, continues to pave the way for entrepreneurs to enjoy online banking services in the comfort of their homes, offices and out-of-town locations.

"The bank customer can do bank transactions right at his desktop via the Internet. We give the customer the tool to have more value," said Marita Socorro Gayares, VP and head of Direct Banking-ExpressLink.

She added, "The virtual bank is not far from the future. We are putting BPI in a more customer-centric position. I think the building blocks have been laid out. Oracle is the foundation of all that."

Powered by Oracle software and solutions, BPI service is now faster.

Through the years, the bank has gained prominence as a financial institution constantly introducing innovative products and services.

"Traditional brick and mortar set-up has become too expensive, inefficient and restrictive to limited financial services," said Oracle Philippines solutions manager Joel Garcia. "New technologies are required to offer convenience to their customers and to compete with other banks."

In the case of BPI, it wanted to use the Internet as an alternative delivery channel for its corporate clients.

The collaboration between BPI and Oracle Philippines gave birth to BPI ExpressLink, a pioneering BPI product aimed at giving corporate clients breakthrough technology solutions for their business needs

From a competitive scenario, corporate cash management service—although capital intensive—are offered by big banks because it is a good source of revenue considering the high-monetary transactions it supports.

Aside from Cash Management, BPI also offers Electronic Invoice Presentment and Payment as a first step to helping its corporate clients build electronic trading communities which follow the network model.

VERITAS unveils strategy for Linux

VERITAS Software Corp. has outlined the next phase in its strategy to lead the Linux storage market, with the unveiling of new products, industry-leading partnerships and contributions to the Linux open source community.

Specifically, VERITAS announced the availability of its clustering and network attached storage (NAS) software for Linux, bringing important mission-critical and management capabilities to Linux, and expanding the industry's most complete selection of Linux-based storage software.

The company also announced a series of initiatives to bring Linux solutions to the local market with key companies, including Dell, HP, IBM, Intel, and Red Hat .

Giga Information Group predicts the Linux server market will grow from $2.5 billion in 2002 to $15 billion by 2007.

VERITAS Software is expanding its product offerings and partnerships to provide companies with the same enterprise-class storage management solutions the company provides for UNIX and Windows.

The availability of VERITAS ServPoint NAS software transforms industry-standard hardware components into non-proprietary NAS file servers, simplifying storage administration and lowering the total cost of storage ownership.

These new products, combined with VERITAS Software's existing storage virtualization and data protection solutions on Linux—VERITAS Foundation Suite and VERITAS NetBackup—make up the broadest set of storage software currently available for Linux.

The products are currently supported on the Red Hat Advanced Server operating system.

The company's Linux product strategy outlined also includes the development of products for clustered database environments running on Linux, working to bring storage and clustering management software to Oracle9i Real Application Clusters on Linux in 2003. VERITAS Software is also working with Dell, HP, IBM and Intel on Linux initiatives.

VERITAS Software's strategy anticipates the adoption of Linux beyond traditional open system enterprise environments.

The company is actively exploring the offering of its storage software on Linux-based mainframe computers. VERITAS Software is also working to embed Linux-based storage management software in next generation storage networking platforms through the VERITAS Powered™ program.

RP in 'best position' to be fast Internet, mobile adopter

GENEVA—The Philippines was rated by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to be "in the best position to be a rapid adopter of the mobile Internet," according to a new list ranking economies according to their ability to take advantage of new Internet and mobile telephone technologies.

The Geneva-based ITU emphasized that many lower- to middle-income countries were well placed for the future despite relatively modest individual incomes.

In the ranking, the Philippines placed 33rd. China (ranked 47), which recently overtook the United States with the most mobile telephone users worldwide, is also in the same position as the Philippines to become a rapid adopter of mobile and Internet technologies, according to the ITU. Romania (37), Peru (39) and the Dominican Republic (41) were also singled out for praise by the world telecommunications agency.

Hong Kong and Denmark topped the list of those capable of taking advantage of new Internet and mobile telephone technologies. The two countries were followed by Sweden, Switzerland and the United States in the ITU's ranking of 200 countries.

Syria, Myanmar and Benin were at the bottom of the index, which is based on current performance in terms of telecommunications and computer technologies, and assesses how well prepared an economy is for future development.

"Individually, mobile communications and the Internet have been the two major drivers of consumer demand for telecommunications services in the last decade of the 20th century," Tim Kelly, head of the ITU's strategy unit, said. "Put them together and you should have one of the major demand drivers of this century."

AFP

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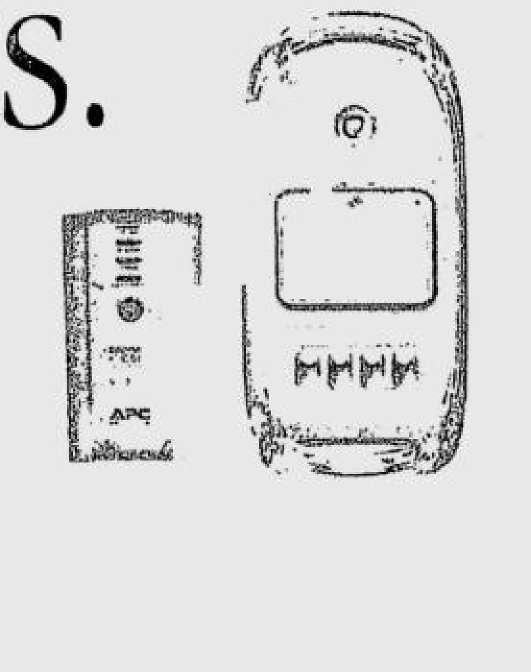

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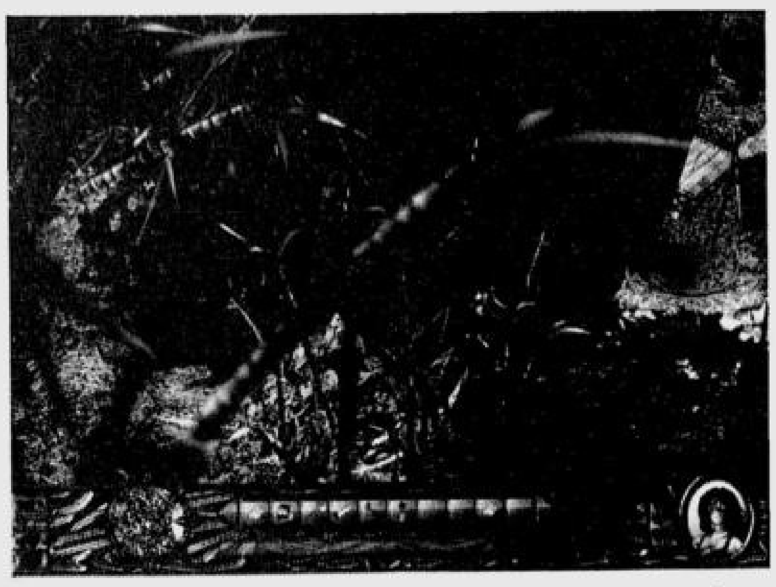
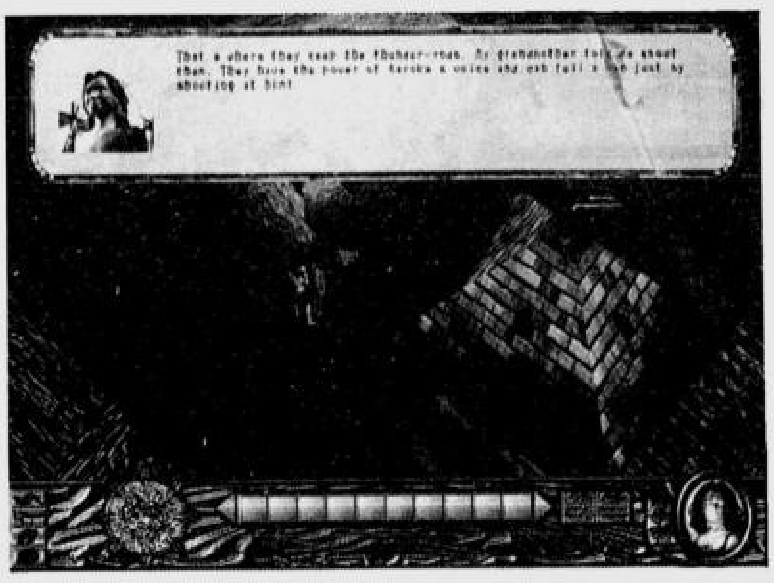
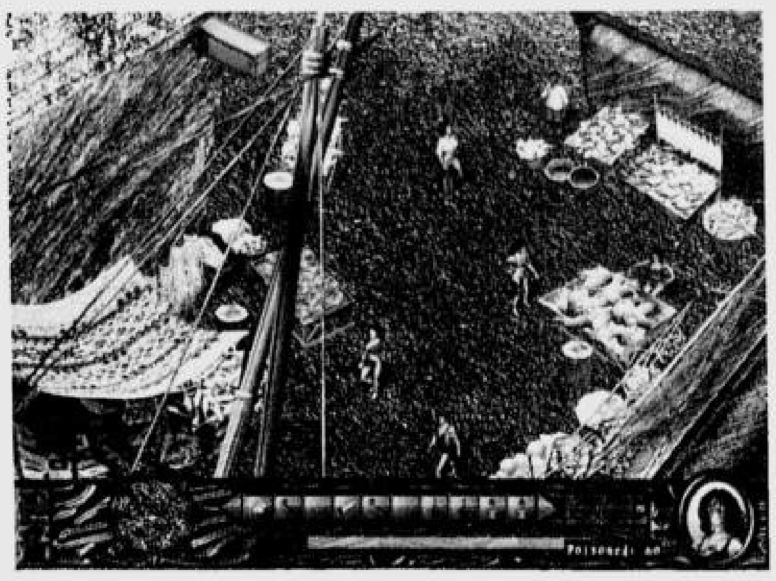






Filipinos developing PC adventure called 'Anito'

By Leo Magno

A ROLE-PLAYING game from a Filipino game development team? Don't raise your eyebrows. Some of the artists in best-selling international games are Filipinos. But a purely home-bred RPG? Read on.

Anino Entertainment, a company based in Alabang, Muntinlupa, hopes to finish by April 2003 an adventure game with RPG elements, character development and console-style fighting action. Called "Anito," the developers hope to make this the first Filipino-produced, commercial, fully featured computer game to hit the international market.

The pioneering team behind Anino Entertainment are Elson Niel Dagondon, producer/designer/programmer; artists Michael Rivero and Joseph Gemora; Christopher Jude Defensor, designer/writer; Marc Polican, programmer; and Dennis Billones on audio.

Anito is set on a fictional island called Maroka, somewhere in 16th century Asia—complete with muskets, witches, galleons and kung-fu. Maroka has a confused mix of cultures, religions and politics. Things get hairy between the natives and the colonizers when a respected leader disappears, and that leader is the player's father. The player must now find him before Maroka falls apart. Shades of Magellan and Lapu-Lapu? You bet.

The developers say Anito is similar to the adventure element of Sierra's "Quest for Glory," the RPG element of Blizzard's "Diablo" and the view point and level segregation element of Interplay's "Baldur's Gate." The third-person view is isometric (3/4 topview) set in a non-rotatable 3D world.

Since the company only has two programmers and they had to develop their own game engine on a limited budget, Anito won't have a multiplayer option. You will need a 3D accelerator card to run the game, although it would still run on some machines without an accelerator. However, it would be slow and would lack most of the special effects. You also need a decent hard disk to prevent skipping.

Although it will be a single-player adventure/RPG, the player can have AI companions. Some of the characters the player may meet in Maroka are Fray Antonio, Xi Chen, Herr Gilles and Tikbalang.

The developers describe Fray Antonio as clergyman in charge of a small chapel with a congregation of about four or five people. He spends all his time drinking at the back of a tavern owned by a certain "Sipag," and only comes out for services once every two weeks. There's idle talk that he and the tavern keeper have some relations with each other.

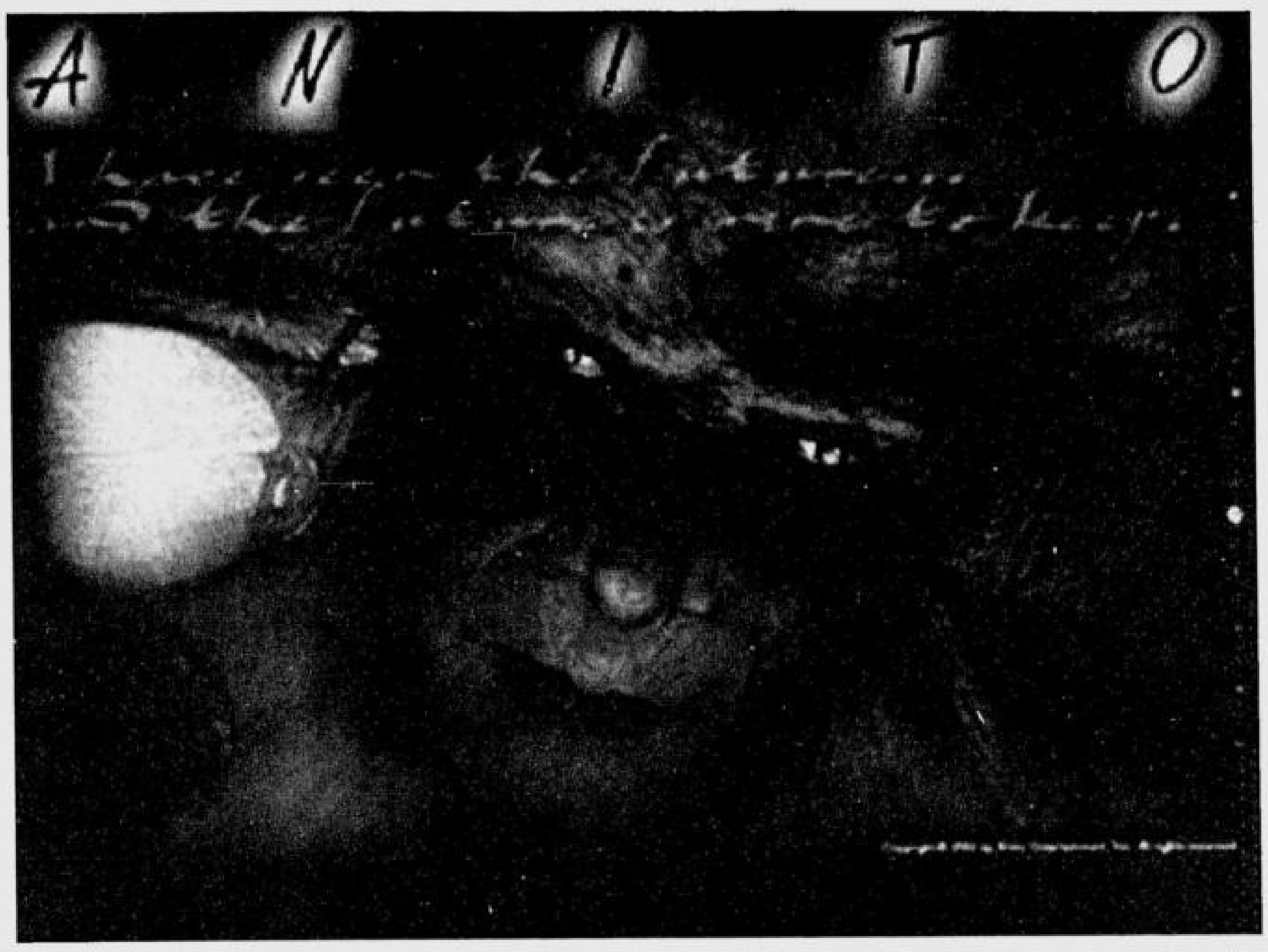
Xi Chen is described as the merchant to end all merchants. He is the prime hawker in the Kongsun markets. Virtually every prominent Senastillian buys from him regularly, giving Xi Chen enough money to send his seven children to school. Xi Chen's getting old—he's almost 50—and is saving his funds to rent a boat and move back home.

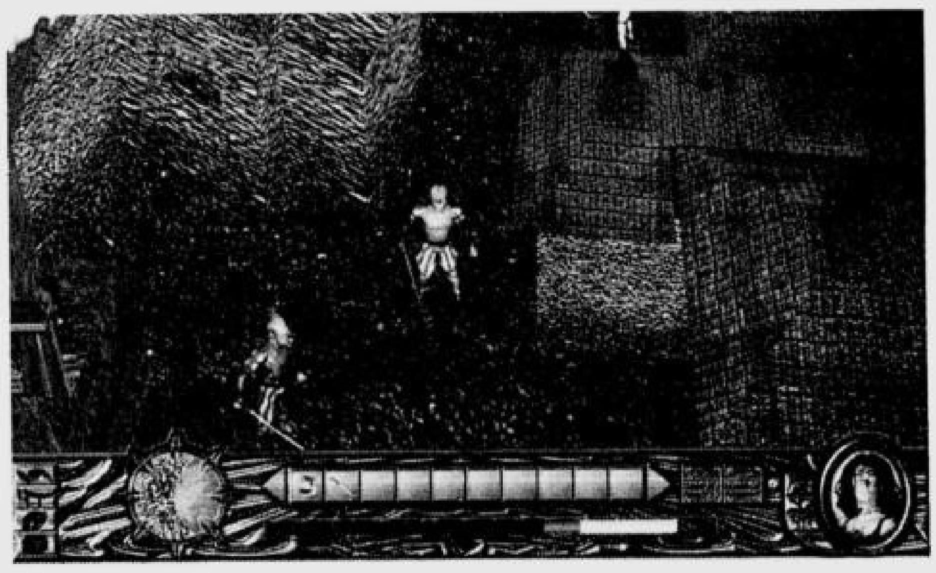
Herr Gilles, on the other hand, is an Alemanian who settled in Lanuevo after a voyage on a Senastillian ship. Gilles is a strange, bespectacled, white-haired man in his late 30s or early 40s, and everyone who knows him well has never seen the man do anything but read. Gilles has been able to gain the Governor-General's favor for the building of a small library with little opposition.

The developers are currently looking for a publisher, and say that they might even port Anito to the Macintosh or even the PS2 if things go well.

"Our vision is to gain global acclaim in the field of video game production and computer graphics in order to achieve creative fulfillment, financial success and plain old glory for ourselves, our company and our country. As locally produced video games hit it big, Filipino talent and expertise will be acknowledged, as it has always deserved to be. The Philippines will emerge as an internationally competitive player in the arts and entertainment industry," the company said in its website at www.aninoentertainment.com.

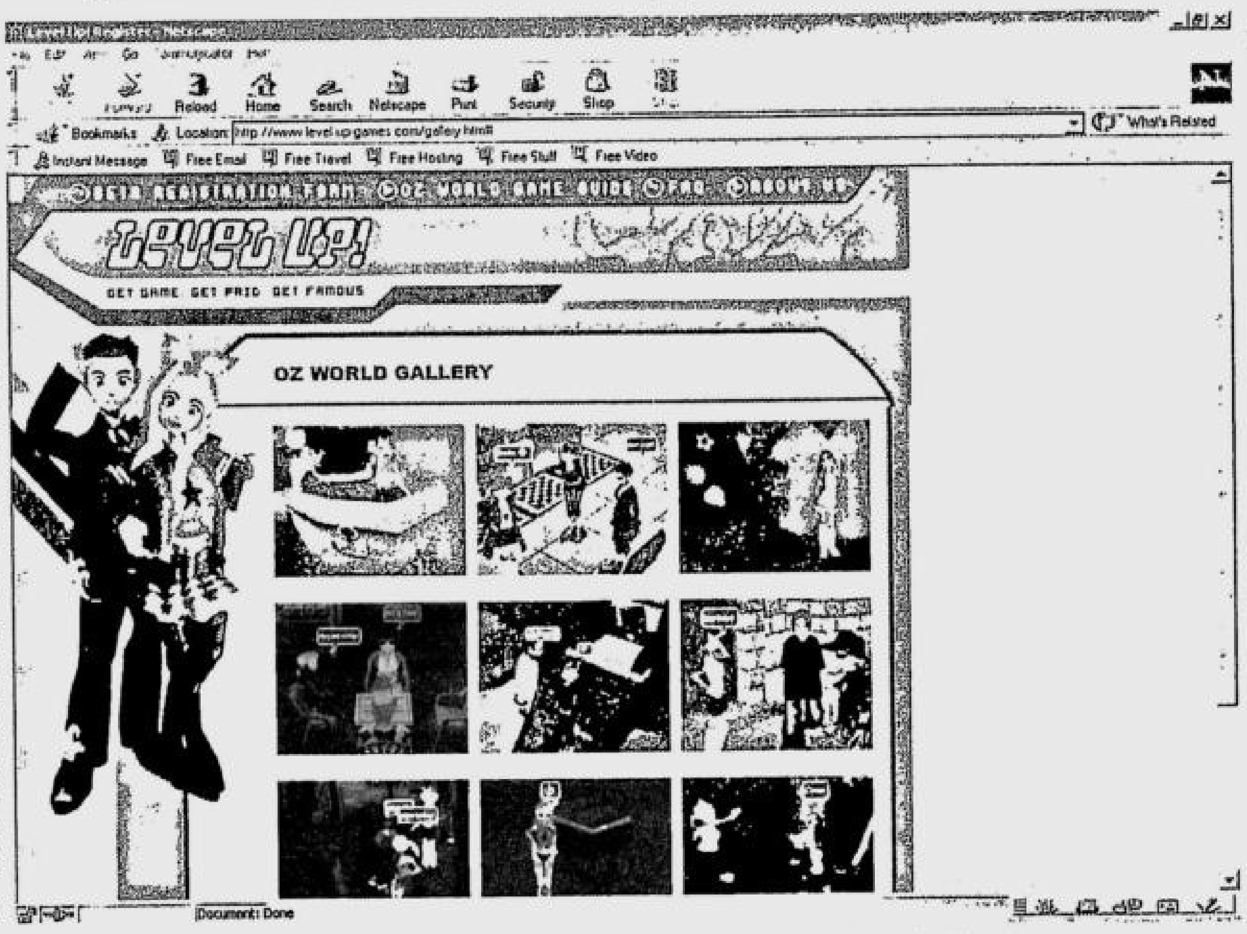
I wish the folks at Anino Entertainment all the luck. Visit their website if you're interested to know more about their work, about publishing deals or about job opportunities.





First Filipino online game set to debut

By Joel D. Pinaroc



HOPING to bring online gaming in the Philippines beyond Counter Strike and War Craft, Level-Up, a Filipino online game developer, is set to release Oz World—said to be the first, online game exclusively for local gamers.

Although no date has been set for the release of Oz World, the online game has been receiving favorable response from Filipino online gamers, mostly students, according to Level-Up's self-proclaimed "game boss" Ben Colayco.

"Filipino gamers are mostly into Counter Strike, which is really a LAN (local network area) game being offered by most Internet cafés. Oz World is in another category, the game being a massively multiplayer online game or MMOG," explains Colayco, who heads Level-Up.

Colayco said MMOGs are wider in scope and will involve gamers around the globe to play with each other, using an Internet connection. Popular MMOGs include Lineage, which has gained popularity and is currently being played by millions.

One of the major differences of Oz World—which was licensed by Level-Up from a Korean company—is that players can play using an ordinary dial-up Internet access.

So what is Oz World all about? The game is avatar-based, with a player having his or her own avatar. Reminiscent of popular games such as "The Sims" series, Oz World revolves around a player's character interacting in a virtual world, where other characters (other online players) also do their stuff.

As your character, you can walk, explore, talk and wander around a chosen virtual world. You can buy things if you have the virtual money to spend. And speaking of money, your character needs to earn "moolah" to be able to interact more and do more things, such as buy clothes and accessories, go fishing or ride the cab. Or even to impress the opposite sex.

The game is non-linear, and for those looking for an "end" or a culminating "stage," this game doesn't have one. Colayco however explained that having earned enough money to buy a big house, with a complete home entertainment room to boot, would be for others the ultimate challenge of the game.

Although one of the goals of the game is for your player to earn money, there is no real pressure for gamers to "advance" their characters, since the game does not necessarily pit one player with another. A player can laze around the park, or by the wharf doing essentially nothing but watch people (other players) go about their business.

Colayco said the game is targeted mostly for female players, due to the game's appeal, not to mention that most the animé inspired characters are females.

"What is interesting is that even players of Counter Strike have been hooked with the appeal of Oz World," Colayco said.

Female characters can walk around town with their two-piece French cut bikinis, provided they have the money to buy the signature clothes and the virtual guts to strut their "stuff," according to Colayco.

It is this feature that Colayco hopes to make the game popular to local gamers, since players can interact with others via the virtual world.

Individuals who are into chatting will love the game, since with Oz World, a player's avatar can interact via a chat-like feature of the game, Colayco said. Players can "talk" with each other in Tagalog or Filipino using the chat-like interface, to add more realism to the interaction part of the game.

While the game is devoid of violence, Colayco said his team of 20 or so staff has to "administer" and "monitor" the game, especially in the area of language.

However, he noted that Filipino gamers are creative, and that some will find a way to express themselves using words not necessarily found in the dictionary or words that are not necessarily profane.

"Some players will find a way to say this and that without really spelling out the word. What we can do is set up some sort of a filter," Colayco said.

Further, Colayco admitted that the local gaming industry does not come close with say, the Korean or European markets. In Asia, Korea ranks as the biggest market for online gaming, understandably so since the country's Internet infrastructure is one of the best in the world.

Colayco said the country has around 2 million PC gamers and roughly half a million users of chat. He said Oz World can accommodate 2,000 players at a time although the game servers, located in the country, can be expanded to accommodate more. Colayco said Level-Up hopes to eventually create a community of local online players.

According to Colayco, Level-Up is coming out with a number of activities promoting the game to local schools. The game is currently on beta testing, Colayco said.

Further, gamers used to the first-person shooting genre will not be left out, according to Colayco as Level-Up is expecting to follow up Oz World with a more mature game title.

Alcatel plunges deeper into telecoms hole

PARIS—Alcatel, which bet its future on telecoms equipment four years ago, is now paying a high price for the decision, announcing on Friday weak sales prospects and a further round of huge job cuts worldwide.

An extra 9,000 jobs are to go, on top of 10,000 announced in June, by the end of 2003, Alcatel said, blaming "a continuing worsening of the telecoms markets."

The company, a diversified technology, defense, energy and transportation group when chairman Serge Tchuruk focused strategy on telecommunications equipment in 1998, says that it has enough cash to cope with debt.

The latest measures are intended to ensure it meets targets for a return to profit next year, but the CFE-CGC union, expressing "shock" at the "dramatic consequences," warned that "the survival of a force in European telecoms is at stake."

The group said it was continuing to increase its market share, but warned it expected third-quarter sales to fall 15 percent from the second-quarter figure, and second-half sales to fall 10 percent from the first-half figure.

And it took a provision, or risk charge for restructuring, of 500 million euros ($490 million) for the next nine months, to be matched by unspecified asset sales.

The share price tells the story: at the height of the stock and high-tech boom, the share was worth 97.05 euros on Sept. 4, 2000. On Friday the share, which had plunged 17.7 percent on Thursday, fell initially by 15 percent, then rallied on the restructuring announcement to close with a gain of 7.57 percent at 2.70 euros.

Since January the stock has crashed about 87 percent and in the last nine days by about 45 percent.

Job cuts highlight the drama of restructuring: The latest addition of 9,000 cuts, combined with the 10,000 cuts announced in June, will slash the workforce by the end of 2003 to 60,000, almost half its strength of 115,000 at end-2000.

Tchuruk, who took control in 1995, has stood by his strategy, saying last month: "We must not forget that the telecom market is one of the rare domains to have the potential for stable growth of the order of 10 percent a year. I'm persuaded that, in these conditions, to have positioned Alcatel among the sector's world leaders has been a good move."

The group reported a net debt of 1.3 billion euros as of June 30. *AFP*

Internet use taking root in Asean, says Romulo

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Internet use is taking root in governments, schools and with the public in Southeast Asia despite impediments such as poor infrastructure and the need for more training, the head of the e-Asean Task Force said.

From depressed Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia to high-tech Singapore and Malaysia, progress has been achieved since the private sector-led task force was formed in 1999 and an e-Asean Agreement was signed the following year, Roberto Romulo said in an interview.

Speaking on the fringes of the Asean economic ministers meeting here, Romulo recalled that during a summit in Manila in 1999 some Asean leaders were "puzzled" when he made a presentation on the use of information and communications technology (ICT).

Since then, Myanmar has inaugurated an information technology park, Vietnam's Communist Party Congress has recognized ICT as a driving force for economic progress, bureaucracies have taken steps to computerize operations and Internet cafés have sprung even in Asean's poorer members.

Other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

This year, the task force's pilot projects have been geared toward helping government bureaucracies computerize operations in state-owned banks as well as in processing passports and drivers' licenses, he said.

Middle-level managers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam were brought to tech-savvy Singapore for training, he said.

"Have we moved forward? Yes, we have moved forward," said Romulo, a former Philippine foreign minister and now one of Manila's top corporate executives. "We have progressed, but if you are saying 'is the infrastructure there in every country?' well the answer is no.

"If you go to Siem Reap (Cambodia), the only way I can get an e-mail is at an Internet café, something like 12 bps or even slower. But you got it, slow but you got it. You go to Singapore and you name it, you can get it any speed you want. So it varies but there is access to the Internet. That's the beginning," Romulo said.

The business sector-led task force will be dissolved this year and Romulo suggested to the ministers during a presentation this week that his group's work should be made an integral part of Asean where the ministers in charge of ICT or telecoms should take the lead.

He recommended the formation of an e-Asean Council composed of telecom or ICT ministers to act as the collective executive body, supported by a coordinating committee of senior officials.

An e-Asean Center—similar to the Jakarta-based Asean Center for Energy—should act as a think tank for the body.

With a tight budget, boosted by grants from the business community and multilateral institutions like the World Bank, teams from the task force's secretariat preached the Internet gospel in seminars to schools and governments and started pilot projects.

The task force also gave policy advice on how to proceed with "model laws" on the ICT sector, as well as on intellectual property rights, cyberlaws and online security.

Poor telecommunications infrastructure, high telecommunications costs and lack of skills remain key challenges.

"But every year there is movement forward. And now I think the leaders of each country are starting to understand how important this is," he said.

Romulo, a former top executive at IBM, said the Internet is a key tool in Asean's dream of regional economic integration and in the regional bloc's competition with China.

"Malaysia went out of the way to help Yangon to get its IT park. Malaysia has been going to Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam trying to upgrade them. Singapore is the same story," he said. "We must move on, especially if we want to take on our friends in China. That's the political imperative."

Romulo identified human resource development as the main challenge, saying that "to get to the knowledge-based society, you have to start from primary school all the way up."

AFP

GPS, mobile device helps thwart child abductions

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE RECENT abduction of the two children of Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma, a high-profile Filipino lawmaker, raised more anxiety among Filipino parents who value the safety of their children.

This was also the same concern shared by a British inventor named John Bell from Kent when he came up with a contraption called "kidcontact."

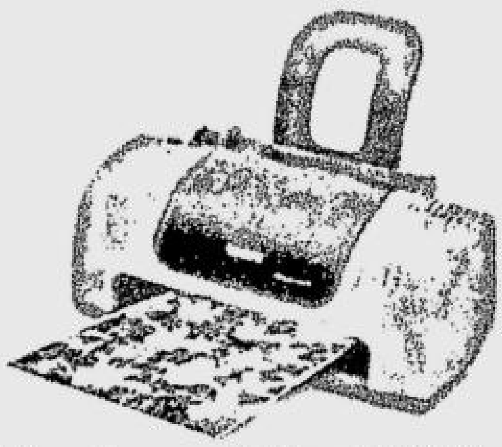
Combining the global positioning satellite (GPS) system and mobile phone technology, kidcontact keeps track of the children's whereabouts, giving parents some peace of mind, according to the inventor's website.

Using both GPS and mobile phone technology, this little device can help parents feel more in control of their children's safety by being able to pinpoint their location.

The child, on the other end, can alert their parents in an emergency with a simple click of a button that sends an instant text message to the parents' mobile phone. The text message contains the location of the child and the exact time the message was sent.

The parent can then either attempt to contact the child directly or call the police, the inventor said.

This device can be disguised as an attractive toy, belt or clothing "patch." The patent for the product is currently pending in the United Kingdom.



The Epson Stylus C41SX

THE BOTTOM LINE

By Jerry Liao

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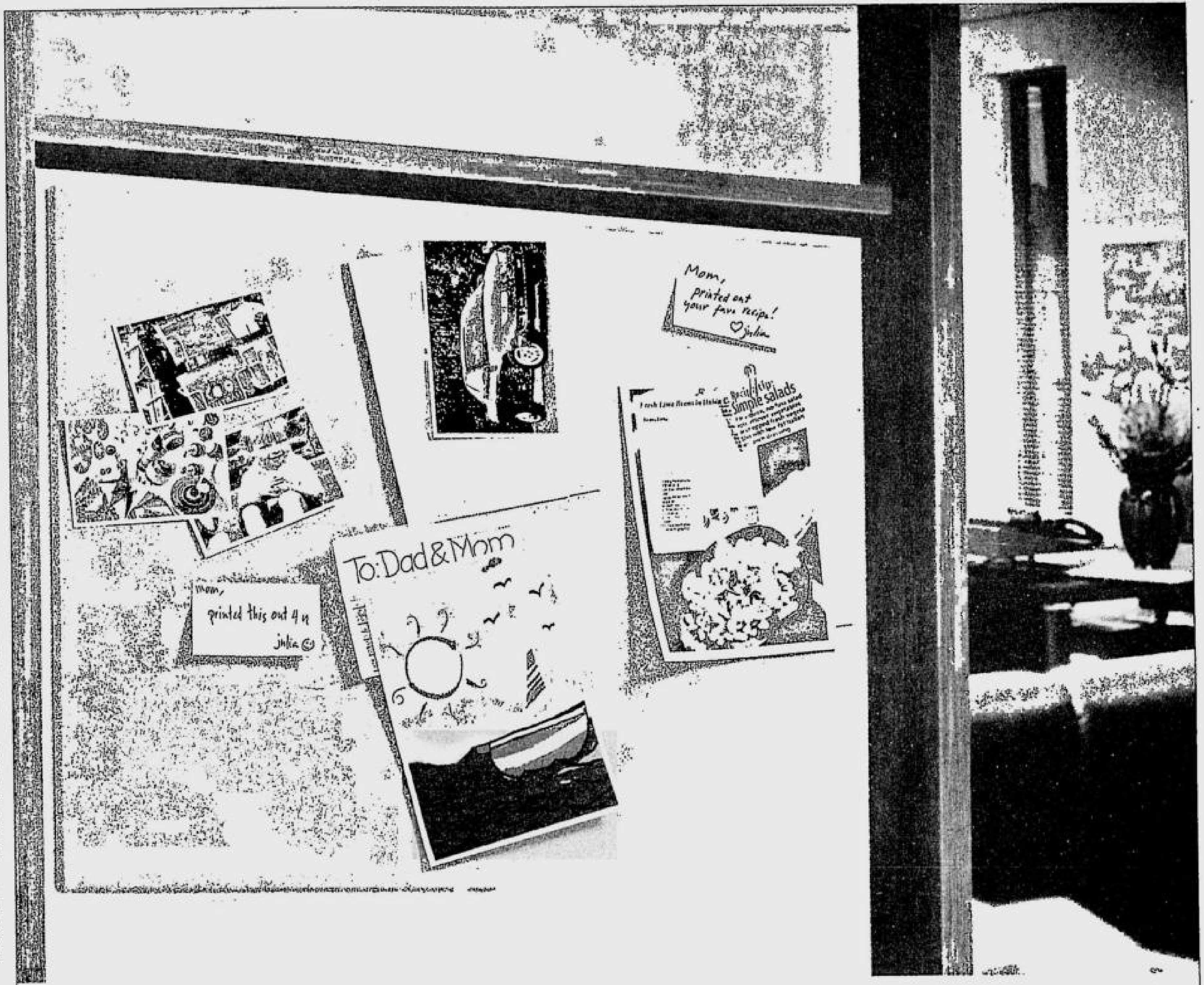

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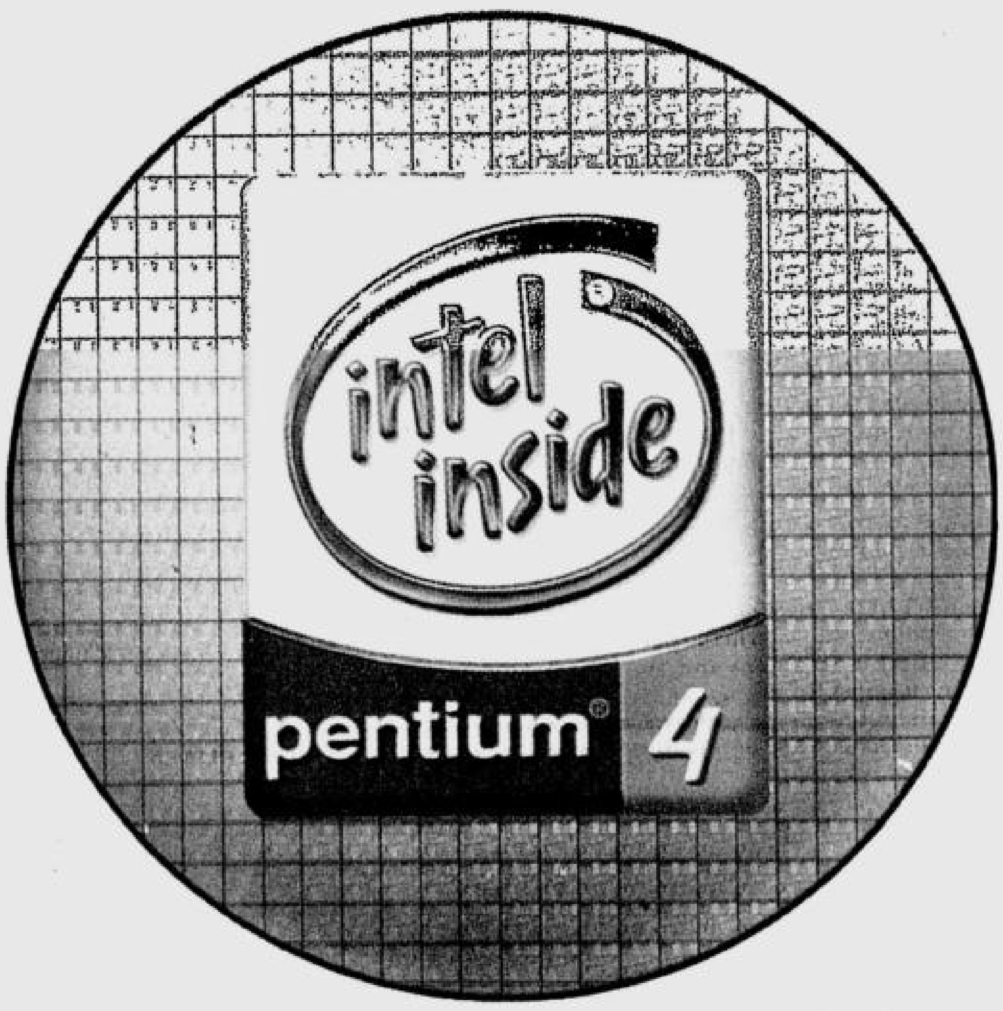

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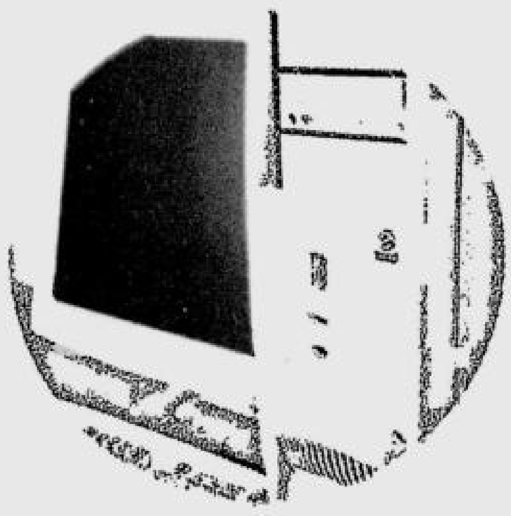

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10th National Public Relations Congress

Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development
September 25 to 27, 2002 / Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

Corporate leadership and sustainable development

By Ma. Alisa S. Cimagala (PRSP)

The past decade has seen tremendous changes in the global marketplace. Deregulation of financial markets, increased competition in products, and rapid technological progress have reshaped the business environment. Thus, the phenomenon of globalization has not only facilitated the flow of transnational exchange and communication, it has also altered arrangement in commerce and trade, in business and industry, and most importantly for investment decisions.

Corporate leadership is the process and the structure used to direct and manage the business affairs of the company. The ultimate objective is to realize long-term shareholder value, while taking into account the interest of stakeholders.

Public relations practitioners consider these realities today with a deep sense of urgency and concern for they imply radical and over-powering changes not only in our system of corporate governance but in the way we as a nation transact and do business with the international community.

Global competitiveness is futile if it is not accompanied by a decent standard of living for the masses. Sustainable development dictates that the companies make efficient use of their resources by minimizing adverse effects brought about by undirected economic growth. Moreover, to ensure that the prerequisites are laid down by providing an environment pushing its business and residents become better off.

Organizations are called to put their minds into the effort of safeguarding the future, find the heart to pursue goals that transcend profits, and translate into concrete actions the rhetoric they deliver. Taking on such challenge will enable organizations to exhibit the kind of corporate leadership required to attain the goal of sustainable development.

Today's public relations is not just about publicity and marketing strategies. Trends are evolving and public relations must take a transformed role. As such, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines takes the bold steps to know the trends, to be abreast with relevant issues and keep up with the challenges of effective public relations management.

The profession's aspirations towards staying ahead of the demands and challenges resulting from today's information and technology prominently reflects the dot com period, and exudes the dynamism of change. Revolutionizing today's PR management style and techniques must consider the fast changing pace of technology as it catapults towards the 21st century.

The next millennium characterized with a world being pulled apart by upheavals, lifestyle altering change, people wired to one another and exploding socio-cultural issues. PR professionals respond to these conditions by being strategic on its approach strategic and ethically correct.

In today's business environment, the PR professionals manage more complex issues and communicate to increasingly infotech-oriented publics. What paradigm shifts must be made? Key players in public relations, communication, economics, business and government enrich your concepts and understanding of the PR imperatives.

The prospects of the 21st century pose a challenge to various institutions – industries, governments, economies. They put the public relations profession to a test. In a complex global society, organizations must employ PR practitioners who can communicate the needs of the organization to its various stakeholders and at the same time, communicate the concerns of these public back to the organization. In this environment of rapid social change, every organization must evolve or die.

Public relations as a practice and profession must adapt to the changing times and look to the future. It must be able to move ahead into the 21st century when sweeping change is inevitable.

The unprecedented growth in the economy have much to offer business communicators and public relations practitioners. As you very well know, public relations is vigorous and fast approaching the highest form of development due mainly to the importance accorded to it by the government and the private sector including the media.

Communicators face a fast-changing world, bringing the management function into the upheaval of changes brought about by advances in technology, shifts in geo-politics and the collapse of trade barriers – changing the way nations, organizations and people relate to one another.

It aims to challenge public relations and communication practitioners to broaden their perspective on the evolving role of the PR function in a fast changing world, prove that sound PR programs can actually achieve their objectives and encourage the need for greater networking and synergy building as a critical component of the PR function.

The intricate and potent communication technologies that have emerged in recent years; have exerted tremendous influences in the public relations field that necessitates an active and sustained interaction among its practitioners to address its relevant issues to keep abreast of these developments. There is a pressing need to orient the general public on PR's crucial role in national development efforts.

The staggering mass of accumulated knowledge and experience that we can collectively muster as public relations practitioners is one of the driving forces that can propel the realization of the country's economic vision.

In government, the need for an information officer was also immediately felt by top officialdom. There was the press secretary for some of the major departments and entities of the government. The government public relations officers (PRO) and public information officers (PIO) are members of a national organization known as the Public Relations Organizations of the Philippines (PROP) of which the PRSP keep close and regular contact.

It has been 45 years since the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) has been established. These have indeed been fruitful years in the Society having been true to its noble aim and purpose to deliver PR services, trainings, and professional communications services not only to the perspective of its members but to the whole Filipino community as well.

The context of community is akin to environmental responsibility. It incorporates the fundamental tenets of responsible and pro-active citizenship in all areas where the corporations does business.

Corporate culture should be transformed to value community and social responsibility so as to further ensure proper self governance. Being a corporate leader, we must bring forth a corporate environment that enhance the private sector while protecting the society.

TOPICS (September 26, Thursday)

Corporate Leadership "Magna Carta in Business"
Leading the way to Sustainable Development
Crisis Management
Government Policy on Generating Investment
Corporate Governance
Prospects for the Economy
Brand Philippines: the PR and Marketing Perspective
Social Investment: Enhancing the Value of Business to Society

TOPICS (September 27, Friday)

Values Building: Ethics in Public Relations
Mobilizing Private and Public Sector Initiatives
Volunteerism: People Power in Business
Societal Alignment and Corporate Responsibility
Promoting the Environment through PR
Effective Networknig through On-line PR
Handling Government Stakeholders

PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES

Messages

I extend my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) on the occasion of your 10th National Public Relations Congress.

I am pleased to note that the PRSP has remained an active and vigorous organization. You have transformed the PR practice into a major profession by your innovations, capabilities, and the depth of your involvement.

The choice of the theme, "Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development," and the topics are truly commendable and well-timed. This is a laudable way of taking cognizance of your role in building and keeping a highly technical and capable human resource in the field of Public Relations. Your organization cannot be without influence in your efforts to build a strong and prosperous nation.

My best wishes to all of you for a fruitful Congress. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Our warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines as you initiate the 10th National PR Congress on September 25-27 at the Garden Ballroom of the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel under the theme "Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development."

Sustainable development has become the concern and responsibility of organizations, regardless of the resources they employ in their respective business operations. Growth objectives are now being pursued not only to prop up the bottom line, but more importantly, to serve the present needs of society while securing the future for coming generations.

However, sustainable development becomes a lonely crusade if the organizations involved in it do not persevere with a sense of leadership such vocation exacts—the kind of leadership where promises are fulfilled, commitments are honored, and pronouncements are lived up to.

In all these, public relations plays a key role, especially in guiding organizations to take the initiative, ensuring that all stakeholders lend their support to the effort, and managing feedback so that organizations remain on track.

In the 10th Public Relations Congress, PR practitioners are invited to look at how their strategic communication best practices could be made more effective in the synergy between Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development.

To all PR practitioners, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for a successful, fruitful and enlightening Congress.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

My warmest greetings to the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) on the occasion of your 10th National Public Relations Congress at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel on September 25-27, 2002.

Public Relations in modern times has evolved into an essential link in much of the world's social, economic, industrial, political and cultural life. It performs a wide range of activities from legitimate attempts at persuasive communication, publicity, press agentry, and marketing research to planning and organizing the efforts of a company or institution to establish mutually-beneficial relationship with the various publics.

As you hold your 10th National Public Relations Congress, it is my good wish that the PRSP would not only continue its vital role of fostering goodwill and cooperation among different institutions but also find common cause with our people in helping eradicate mass poverty, institute civil order and peace, and make our nation a better place to live in.

Composed of PR experts and practitioners, the PRSP is not without influence in fulfilling our common vision of a brighter future for our people.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

IGNACIO R. BUNYE
Press Secretary
Republic of the Philippines

Choosing "Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development" as the theme of the 10th National Public Relations Congress is actually taking on a global agenda. Worldwide, the trend points to more and more businesses being urgently called upon to adopt, as part of their core business strategy, the conscientious promotion of development without damaging the environment.

We are all aware of the grave threats our planet is faced with the worsening ecological crisis that we ourselves are experiencing in our time as never before. Global warming, the rising sea levels that is causing the floods, the pollution of air and water, the changing weather patterns are but a few.

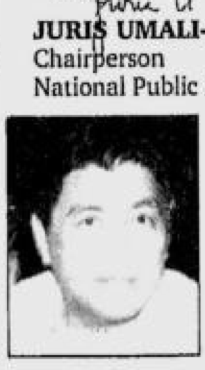
Individually we have our own contributions to make towards saving the environment for the future generations. But as PR practitioners, a bigger challenge and a much greater responsibility is upon us, because it is up to us to put our organizations in the forefront of relevant efforts and initiatives. It is us who will drum up and gather support from various stakeholders. It is us who will establish the guideposts for deriving feedback and moving on with lessons learned.

Our advantage is that in this effort we have the whole world out there to network with, as they too are working to tackle similar issues and finding solutions towards sustainable development. And now we have the benefits of technology, the resources for communication and global access to information.

I greet and welcome you all to this Congress. Your participation in this Congress indeed shows your commitment to sustainable development and corporate responsibility. With all of us present here, there can be no limit to the synergy our brilliant minds can generate.

Sincerely yours,

JURIS UMALI-SOLIMAN
Chairperson
National Public Relations Week



THE THEME of this year's PR Congress – "Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development" – defines perhaps the two most controversial issues that corporations have had to deal with in recent years – and thus presents the most challenging issues that public relations professionals will have to content with in the coming years.

The fist topics, "Corporate Leadership," defines the moral environment in the wake of recent ethical issues affecting corporate governance. The second, "Sustainable Development," defines both the physical environment and the moral environment that corporations must learn to navigate if they are to survive.

Through these challenging times, the public relations professional will have to play a strategic rol ein helping steer their companies into an uncertain future.

WINSTON A. MARBELLA
President
PRSP

CEMEX PHILIPPINES

In harmony with nature... and people

By Marlet D. Salazar

"YES, you are inside a cement plant. And no, you are not just imagining things." These are the answers you'll get once you step inside, and outside, the two CEMEX Philippines' cement plants in the country—APO Cement in Cebu and Solid Cement in Rizal.

For ordinary onlookers, CEMEX Philippines is just another multinational company that made a huge investment and generated hundreds of jobs for Filipinos, but for those who knew better, it's more than just a cement company.

A subsidiary of CEMEX S.A. de C.V., its entry in 1997 in the country is their first venture in Asia. Its involvement in environmental conservation, as well as community development is astounding. One of its biggest achievements is the habitat it helped build for Philippine Hawk Eagle in Lungsod Kalikasan located at Quezon City.

For its efforts in preserving our natural treasures, CEMEX Philippines, with its chief executive officer Francisco Cue, was awarded the Anvil Award of Merit for Environmental Awareness for its publication and promotion of the book "Hotspots." "Hotspots: Earth's Biologically Richest and Most Endangered Terrestrial Regions" was made possible in cooperation with Conservation International and Agrupación Sierra Madre, through a series of book-related events which include a kiddie art contest and photo exhibit.

But there's something that the two plants are very proud of: the APO Lagoon and the Marilyn Lagoon both located in the plants' grounds. Each lagoon is home to hundreds of ducks and birds. The company also invested in the scientific system of quarrying to ensure the health and safety of its employees and the community at large.

To prove that it practices what it preaches, CEMEX has acquired state-of-the-art technology to guarantee a dust-free working area. Imagine a warehouse spic and span with no traces of dirt anywhere you go. For this feat, Dr. Samya Galal, Egyptian Environmental Senior Adviser, recognized their efforts when she visited the Philippines a year ago.

Another feather on their cap are the ISO 14001 certifications for both plants, which the company achieved immediately after they were given their ISO 9002.

Filipinos in CEMEX have shown that, given the chance, they can prove their worth as world-class workers. A number of employees who were sent abroad for advance technology training emerged as first-rate individuals in their field. Two of them have become plant managers in the United States and one a regional director in Mexico and another one in the US. CEMEX is also committed to help its employees grow and develop professionally by sending them to prominent schools outside the Philippines.

Communities on the GO

The nearby communities where the plants are located also benefited from CEMEX's commitment to enhancing community relations. Personally congratulated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, CEMEX is the first private sector corporation to donate brand-new computers in two public schools (Cebu and Antipolo) in response to the government's call to help provide computers for public education.

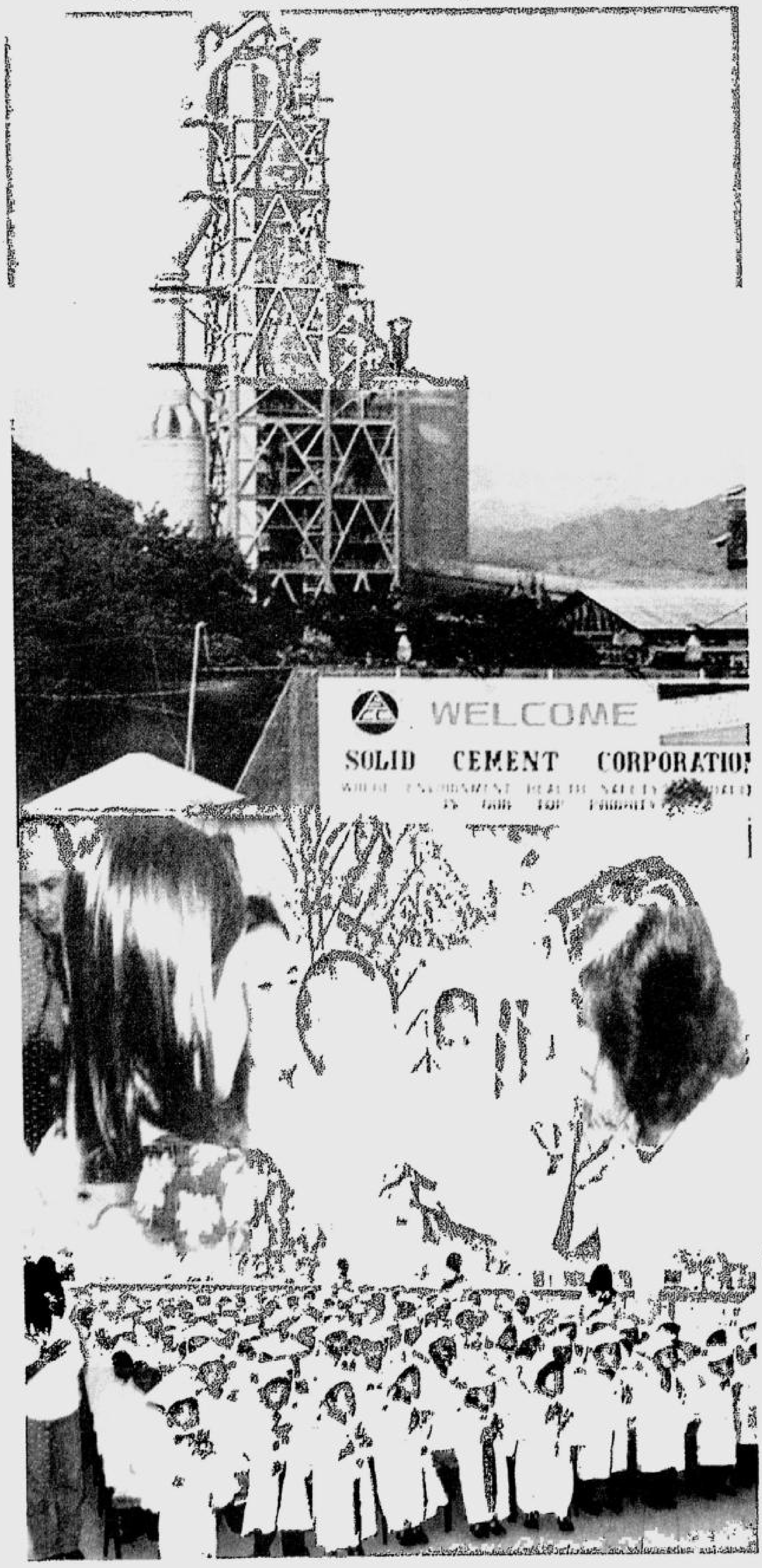
CEMEX values it employees like family...well a real family. It now runs several day care centers for free. Most of the pupils enrolled are the employees' children.

And true to its passion in reaching out to the community, CEMEX provides vocational training courses for out-of school youth. It also conducts drug awareness programs to "make them useful members of the society." The company also makes sure to teach them new skills to open up job opportunities both within the plants and beyond.

The employees' spouses also have their place in the CEMEX family. The Ladies' Club, a project of corporate communications director Juris Umali-Soliman, is very active in medical missions, tree planting, and outreach programs of the company. In turn, CEMEX trains them in various short courses like candle making, cooking, hair-culture, and cosmetology.

CEMEX, with its mother company in Mexico, also respects the religious culture of the Philippines. In relation to this, Soliman initiated the program spiritual enrichment. Among its achievements is the reopening of a chapel in Cebu that has been closed for 15 years.

CEMEX Philippines surely still has so many programs, projects, and initiatives, which will benefit its employees, communities and the environment. It is a primary example of how foreign investment can work hand in hand with their host country in nation-building.



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Code of Professional Standards for the Practice of Public Relations

- Conduct our professional way of life with the interest of the public as our basic and primary guide;

- Conduct our activities in full accordance with the accepted standards of trust, objectivity, accuracy and good taste;

- Uphold the rule of law and the dictates of public order, public policy, morals and good customs;

- Help promote the concept of social justice;

- Foster harmonious relationship and establish fair dealings at all times with employers, our fellow practitioners and the general and special publics;

- Protect the interest at our clients or employers by being faithful to our commitments to them, against which shall not represent conflicting or competing interests, unless full consent is given by all interested parties with full disclosure of facts;

- Refuse all other obligations which will hamper the effective and efficient performance of our duties to our clients and publics;

- Adhere closely to the established guidelines and ethics for the use of mass media or any other channels of communications;

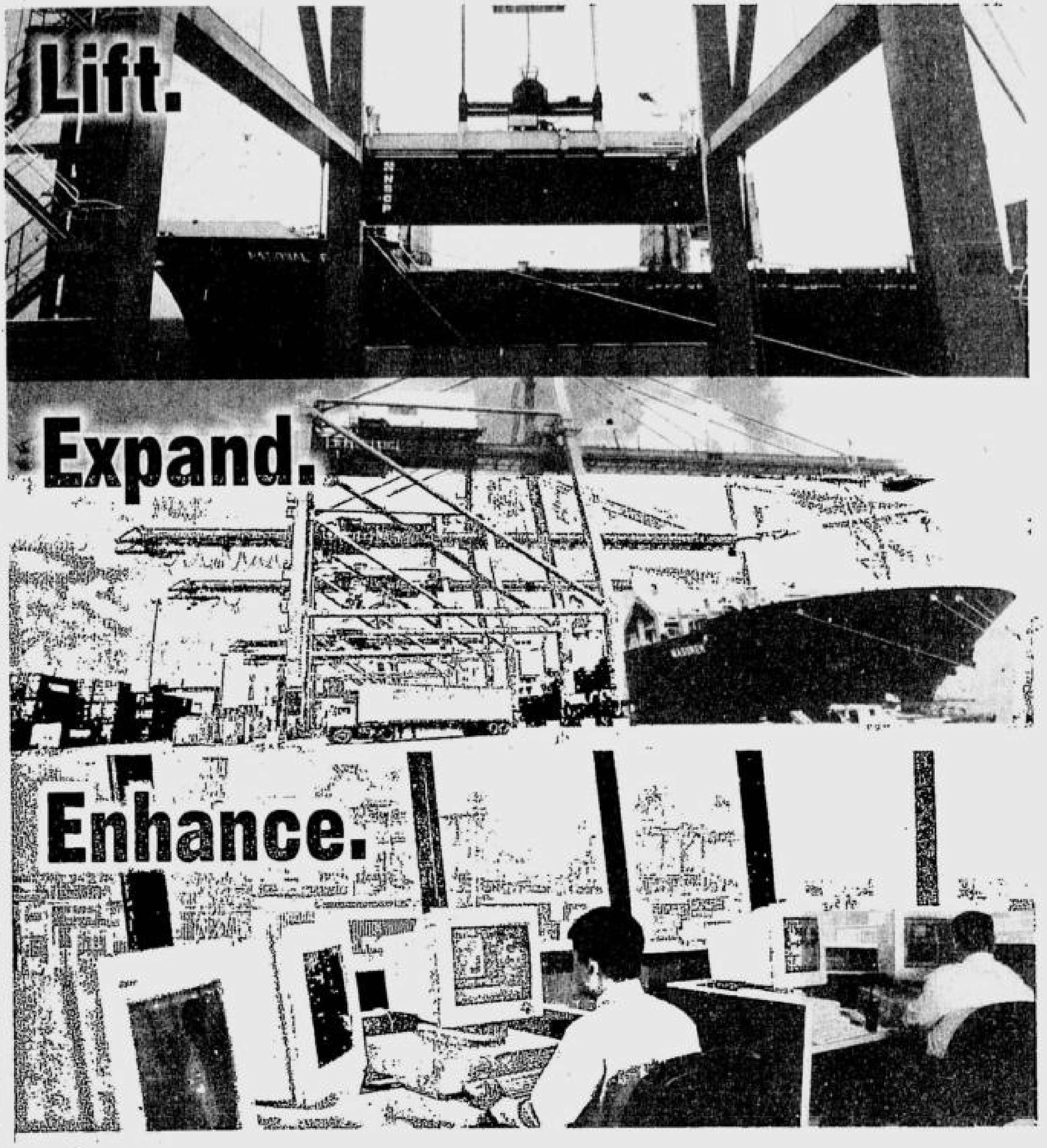
- Safeguard the confidence of our presence and former clients or employers by keeping trade secrets or other information of similar nature, unless their disclosure is ordered by a competent government authority by reason of national security or public policy;

- Refuse any form of valuable consideration for a service, involving the profession, from anyone other than our clients or employers, even if it does not involve conflicting interests, unless full consent is given by all interested parties;

- Avoid at all time pursuing any activity prejudicial to the interest of the society or inconsistent with the dictates of this code; and

- Uphold the accepted principle of Ethics that the end does not justify the means.

Today's public relations is not just about publicity and marketing strategies. Trends are evolving and public relations must take a transformed role. As such, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines takes the bold steps to know the trends, to be abreast with relevant issues and keep up with the challenges of effective public relations management



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At Pfizer, reaching out is a way of life. During times of calamities, it has always been our priority worldwide to assist affected families through disaster relief operations.

In 2001, when Mayon Volcano erupted in the country's Bicol region, tens of thousands were displaced from their homes with their sources of livelihood lost. Pfizer, in partnership with United Way International, organized relief operations for the residents of Malilipot, Tabaco, Albay. A medical mission was conducted and medicines, blankets, mats, rice and canned goods were distributed to the people. Realizing that many families needed to begin anew, a goat distribution project was initiated to help create livelihood. Goats, animal medicines and animal care information were given to the beneficiaries at no cost to them. Coupled with the people's cooperation and hard work, the project today has helped hundreds of families get back on their feet after the unfortunate disaster.

A simple contribution to a community at a time they needed it the most has brought an immeasurable sense of hope to the lives of many families. And for us at Pfizer, that's reason enough to keep on doing it.

*"Noong pumutok ang Mayon,
di namin alam kung paano
na ang bukas para kina
Ramon at Buboy.*

*Dahil sa malasakit nila,
kami ay nabuhayan ng pag-asa
na magsimulang muli."*

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THE PR CONGRESS COMMITTEE AT WORK
SMC's Bernie Bagaman, STI's Malu Espina, SMC's Ed Timbungco, PLDT's Evelyn del Rosario, Graphic's Alisa Cimagala, Pfizer's Karen Villanueva, RGMA's Marie Hugo, Cemex's Juris Soliman and CAP's Lou de Guzman. Not in photo are Gerpalife's Knette Fernando, Quezon Power's Benjie Bautista and Campaigns and Gray's Bong Osorio.

> The Society's mission is to advance the highly ethical practice of public relations by uniting those engaged in the profession and encouraging continuing education of PR practice in the country

Public Relations Society of the Philippines

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) is the country's premier organization for public relations professionals. It counts from its roster, members who represent business and industry, government counseling firms, non-profit organizations, hospitals, schools, hotels and professional services among others.

PRSP is a non-stock, non-profit organization established on Feb. 19, 1957 by the leading PR practitioners in the country. The Society's mission to advance the practice of public relations by uniting those engaged in the profession; encouraging continuing education of practitioners; generating public confidence in the profession by promoting highly ethical practices and encouraging high standards of public service; playing the active role in all matters affecting the practice of public relations; and strengthening the relationships of public relations professionals with employees and clients, government at all levels, educators, media and the public.

PRSP's 9-member Board of Directors set the strategic direction and policy for the society. Members can choose to join one or more of the society's working committees such as Anvil, PR Congress, Professional Development Program, Membership, Finance, PR Education and Student Affairs, Ethics and Accreditation, External Relations, Publication and Social Outreach Services. PRSP firmly subscribers to the tenet that professional integrity is based on sound and ethical practice. Upon joining the society, members agree to adhere to PRSP Code of Ethical Standards in the Practice of Public Relations. In 1995, PRSP established a Voluntary Accreditation Program. Members with at least three years of professional practice may earn "Accredited" status by passing the written and oral examinations. Accredited status attests to a professional competency in the practice of public relations. Upon successful completion of the examinations, individuals may use the letters APR (Accredited in Public Relations) after his name.

Accreditation is the centerpiece of PRSP's professional progress. This is followed by the maintenance of Accreditation achieved through continuing education of public relations education (Conpre) and other activities of the society.

PRSP's major service to its members is an integrated professional development program which includes the Annual PR Congress, seminars and e-Learnings under the Professional Development Committee

On a quarterly basis, PRSP publishes the PR Net, a publication devoted to issues and trends that affect the PR Profession which includes news, trends and how-to-information for public relations professionals and students.

The Anvil Awards, considered as the "Oscars" of Public Relations, are given for excellence in public relations program in two major categories which include several sub-categories – Institutional and Corporate PR Program and Tools of Public Relations. It is awarded by a multi-sectoral jury to the best in the past year.

Other major PRSP awards is the "Gawad Panday" which recognizes an individual's significant contributions to the public relations profession.

The program honors professionals who meet standards of excellence for the practice of public relations, and serve as role models for other public relations professionals to emulate.

PETRON
There's a lot of service we do outside our stations.

Service is in the heart of everything we do. Not only is this apparent in our products and services, but also in our employees' drive for public service. That's why we have the 14-year old motorist assistance program, LAKBAY ALALAY, and environmental projects like KONTRA KALAT SA DAGAT (coastal clean-up) and PUNO NG BUHAY (tree planting). And that's why we also support HABITAT FOR HUMANITY and LAKBAYANIHAN medical missions to communities across the country. All these borne out of a heartfelt desire to serve the Filipino.

Pusong Pinoy

PETRON FOUNDATION

PETRON

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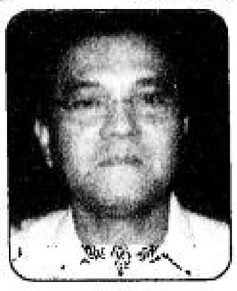

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MALAMPAYA may be 250 kms. away from this farmer...
...but makes his dreams bear fruit.
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DEEP WATER GAS TO POWER
PNOC

Malampaya represents the most significant industrial investment in our nation's history. Not only does it provide a cleaner source of energy, it also paves the way for sustainable social development programs to help underprivileged Filipinos—especially those living in Palawan, Mindoro, Batangas and Subic—improve their quality of life.

Since 1998, more farmers have benefited from Malampaya-supported agricultural skills programs of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. where they were taught how to improve farm productivity, prepare farm and business plans and hands-on marketing. In addition, other social community development programs like health care services and livelihood micro-financing were also initiated to help build a healthy, prosperous society in the provinces.

It is because of this commitment that Malampaya was awarded the **World Summit Business Award for Sustainable Development Partnerships** by the **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. For Malampaya is not just about producing natural gas; it is about helping us meet our needs today without compromising our children's future.

GLOBE TELECOM

GLOBE TELECOM DONATES CONFERENCE BAGS FOR PR CONGRESS
Globe SVP for Corp. and Regulatory Affairs Lawyer Rodolfo A. Salalima (second from left) turns over to PR Congress chair Juris Umali-Soliman, Cemex, a sample bag. Witnessing the turn-over are Jones T. Campos, APR, Head, Public Relations, Globe Telecom; Evelyn M. del Rosario, APR, PLDT, PR Congress adviser; and Lourdes S. de Guzman, CAP, PR Congress committee member

PRSP Accreditation System

OPPORTUNITIES for a stable and rewarding career in public relations are increasing. More and more corporations, businesses and industries are becoming aware of the importance of public relations in their effort to attain their goals. The government now recognizes the social importance of PR and sees it as one potent tool to stimulate the country's development.

But PR as industry has yet to come of age in the Philippines. Today, the practice still has to be professionalized. True, we have PR men and women in business, industry and government, comparable to the leading practitioners in other parts of the world, but then, we also have the so-called men who neither have the qualifications nor preparations for the profession.

PR is highly specialized field. Contrary to common belief, not just anyone with a bachelor's degree should be allowed to practice it. A good PR professional should have a strategic overview of many things and a good grasp of many disciplines. He must have a good perception of development in and out of his sphere of work. He is essentially a communicator but extremely conversant with management, marketing, finance, advertising, sales promotions, ethics and social sciences. Because their responsibility in business and society is enormous, the consequences of their ineptness could be serious.

Doctors, engineers, accountants and others are required to pass government examinations, and pay for a license before they can practice their profession. A person who doesn't pass the board examinations for doctor and has no license but goes around treating people is a quack.

The society realizes a need to establish a system to determine who, indeed, are qualified for the professional practice of public relations in order to formulate standards of proficiency and competence for this "growth" profession.

Finally, with an Accreditation system, we can recommend a rate structure of compensation for public relations executives in business and industry.

Roster of APRs

1995

George M. Balagtas, APR
Elpi O. Cuna, APR
Maximo J. Edralin Jr., APR
Honesto M. Isleta, APR
Winston A. Marbella, APR
Emcy Corteza-Tinsay, APR
Oscar S. Villadolid, APR

1996

Carlos A. Agatep, APR
Virgilio Q. Pantaleon, APR
Roel S. Ramirez, APR
Leonides C. Valencia, APR

1997

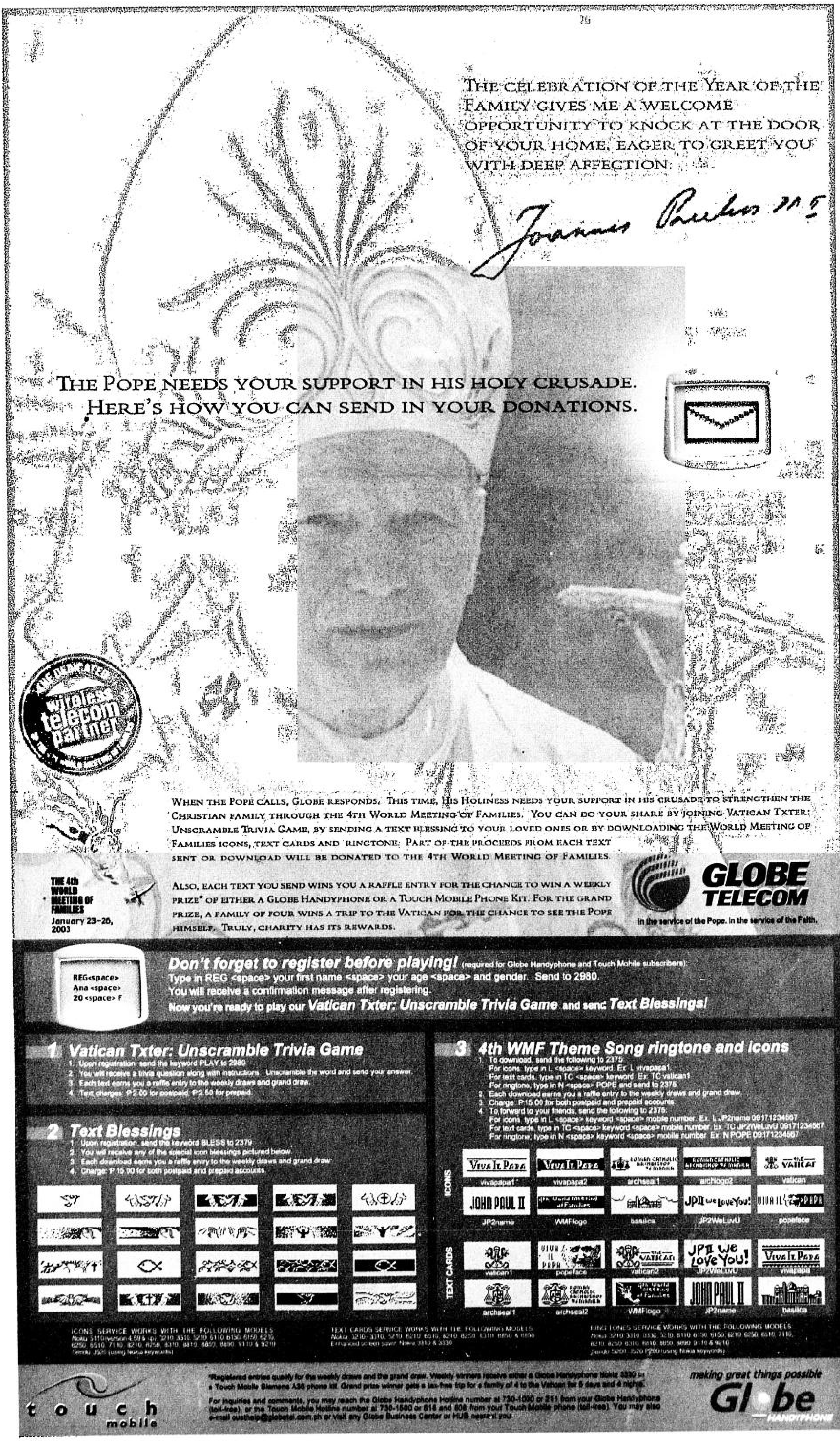
Evelyn M. del Rosario, APR
Jorge S. Lloredo Jr., APR
Pedro A. Padre, APR

1999

Jones T. Campos, APR
Ma. Leticia Y. Beltran, APR
Ma. Amylyn S. de Quiros, APR
Dante M. Velasco, APR
Edith B. Sola, APR

PR Congress: A Decade of Excellence

- One Image One Nation (1993)
- Synergy: Toward National Growth as Global Competitiveness (1994)
- Communications Management in A Changing World (1995)
- Communications in the APEC Region (1996)
- Reinventing PR for the 21st Century (1997)
- PR Imperative for the Next Millennium (1998)
- PR Management @ 2000
- Revolutionizing the PR Practice for e-Environment (2000)
- Today Issues: Directions for Public Relations Management (2001)
- Corporate Leadership and Sustainable Development (2002)


THE CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY GIVES ME A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO KNOCK AT THE DOOR OF YOUR HOME, EAGER TO GREET YOU WITH DEEP AFFECTION.

Joannes Paulus II

THE POPE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT IN HIS HOLY CRUSADE.
HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SEND IN YOUR DONATIONS.

WHEN THE POPE CALLS, GLOBE RESPONDS. THIS TIME, HIS HOLINESS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT IN HIS CRUSADE TO STRENGTHEN THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY THROUGH THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES. YOU CAN DO YOUR SHARE BY JOINING VATICAN TXTER: UNSCRAMBLE TRIVIA GAME, BY SENDING A TEXT BLESSING TO YOUR LOVED ONES OR BY DOWNLOADING THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES ICONS, TEXT CARDS AND RINGTONE. PART OF THE PROCEEDS FROM EACH TEXT SENT OR DOWNLOAD WILL BE DONATED TO THE 4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES.

ALSO, EACH TEXT YOU SEND WINS YOU A RAFFLE ENTRY FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A WEEKLY PRIZE* OF EITHER A GLOBE HANDYPHONE OR A TOUCH MOBILE PHONE KIT. FOR THE GRAND PRIZE, A FAMILY OF FOUR WINS A TRIP TO THE VATICAN FOR THE CHANCE TO SEE THE POPE HIMSELF. TRULY, CHARITY HAS ITS REWARDS.

THE 4th WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES
January 23–26, 2003

GLOBE TELECOM
In the service of the Pope. In the service of the Faith.

Don't forget to register before playing! (required for Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers):
Type in REG <space> your first name <space> your age <space> and gender. Send to 2980.
You will receive a confirmation message after registering.
Now you're ready to play our **Vatican Txter: Unscramble Trivia Game** and send **Text Blessings!**

1 Vatican Txter: Unscramble Trivia Game
1. Upon registration, send the keyword PLAY to 2980.
2. You will receive a trivia question along with instructions. Unscramble the word and send your answer.
3. Each text earns you a raffle entry to the weekly draws and grand draw.
4. Text charges: ₱2.00 for postpaid, ₱2.50 for prepaid.

2 Text Blessings
1. Upon registration, send the keyword BLESS to 2379.
2. You will receive any of the special icon blessings pictured below.
3. Each download earns you a raffle entry to the weekly draws and grand draw.
4. Charge: ₱15.00 for both postpaid and prepaid accounts.

3 4th WMF Theme Song ringtone and icons
1. To download, send the following to 2375:
For icons, type in L <space> keyword. Ex. L vivapapa1
For text cards, type in TC <space> keyword. Ex. TC vatican1
For ringtone, type in N <space> POPE and send to 2375
2. Each download earns you a raffle entry to the weekly draws and grand draw.
3. Charge: ₱15.00 for both postpaid and prepaid accounts.
4. To forward to your friends, send the following to 2375:
For icons, type in L <space> keyword <space> mobile number. Ex. L JP2name 09171234567
For text cards, type in TC <space> keyword <space> mobile number. Ex. TC JP2WeLuvU 09171234567
For ringtone, type in N <space> keyword <space> mobile number. Ex. N POPE 09171234567

ICONS SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS
Nokia 5110 (version 4.59 & up), 3210, 3310, 5210, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 6510, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8810, 8850, 8890, 9110 & 9210
Sendo J520 (using Nokia keywords)

TEXT CARDS SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS
Nokia 3210, 3310, 5210, 6210, 6510, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8850 & 8890
Enhanced screen saver: Nokia 3310 & 3330

RING TONES SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS
Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 5210, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 6510, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8810, 8850, 8890, 9110 & 9210
Sendo S200, J520 P200 (using Nokia keywords)

*Registered entries qualify for the weekly draws and the grand draw. Weekly winners receive either a Globe Handyphone Nokia 3330 or a Touch Mobile Siemens A36 phone kit. Grand prize winner gets a tax-free trip for a family of 4 to the Vatican for 5 days and 4 nights.

For inquiries and comments, you may reach the Globe Handyphone Hotline number at 730-1000 or 211 from your Globe Handyphone (toll-free), or the Touch Mobile Hotline number at 730-1500 or 818 and 808 from your Touch Mobile phone (toll-free). You may also e-mail custhelp@globetel.com.ph or visit any Globe Business Center or HUB nearest you.

touch mobile

making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE

LEARN TO DO IT RIGHT
Crisis Management II
Rebuilding the Corporate Reputation after the Crisis is Over
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., September 25, 2002, Garden Ballroom
Edsa Shangri-La Hotel
Mr. Winston A. Marbella, APR, PRSP President
and highly acclaimed PR professional, shares his expertise on how a crisis is fully managed, long after the crisis itself